Regd. No. MH 213

For the week ending Saturday September 4, 1971

GOD SAVE THE MOTHERLAND

THE CURRENT WEEKLY

VOL. XXIII, NO. 1 All India Edition 40 p.

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Namaz
Read what the Soviet booklet says about it

Offensive booklet
Posted from Moscow to Indian editor

Soviets Panic: They disclaim their own booklet insulting Islam & the Koran

By D. F. KARAKA

THE DATE OF THIS ISSUE, September 4, is most significant. On this date falls the birthday of Hazrat Ali. In terms of the Muslim calendar, it is the 13th of Rajab.

On this date also CURRENT, having completed 22 years of publication, begins the first issue of its 23rd year. This is no ordinary coincidence. On this occasion we publish this article, important not only to Muslims all over the world but to those who hold the religions of man in high respect.

We write today about a booklet called **"The Soviet Union and Islam"** (see pic. above), which has raised a storm of protest in the nearby island of Ceylon because the name of the author, as stated on an inside page of this publication, is **R. N. Nishanov,** who happens presently to be the Ambassador of the USSR to Ceylon.

The booklet is stated to be published by the **Novosti Press Agency Publishing House,** Moscow. The imprint line in Russian on the inside back page, consisting of the author's name, the title of the book and the price (8 kopeks) is similar to the one which appears on other similar publications which form part of Moscow's propaganda.

On the back cover of this booklet appears an insignia with the Russian letters **"АпН",** —"APN" meaning Agenstoo Pechati Novosti—the same as we see on other Soviet booklets and pamphlets sold by Communist bookshops in India.

As many as six other booklets purchased for comparison and inspected by us, namely **(1) M. A. Suslov's** "Inspired by the October Revolution", **(2) K. F. Katushev's** "CPSU Policy: Leninism in Action", **(3)** "For Unity of All Anti-Imperialist Forces", **(4)** "Soviet Jews: Fact and Fiction", **(5) A. Semyonov's** "Labour protection in the USSR", and **(6)** "Ten years of Novosti", have the same make-up, a similar imprint line, and even the same style of the imprint line.

Another Similarity

There is another similarity noticeable, namely that of the capital letter 'W' and the lower case letter 'v' in the italics type used in this booklet. They are exactly the same as in other Novosti publications and they are all in a fancy type not known to be used anywhere else in the world.

The author of this publication is described in the inside page as **"formerly the Secretary of the Central Committee, Communist Party of Uzbekistan. At present he is Ambassador of the USSR to Ceylon."** That is why the storm of protest first broke in that little island of Ceylon, south of India.

The **Ceylon Observer** of Monday, August 9, however, published on its front page a somewhat belated denial, issued it seems, by unnamed "Russian officials", who are now saying that this booklet is **"a fabrication". This denial is by no means convincing, and the author of the booklet appears very much to be the man holding the office of Soviet Ambassador to Ceylon.**

The existence of the booklet

(Continued on page 8)

3 days with

V. P. Naik

in the scarcity areas of Maharashtra

Begins P. 3

Andhra CM's "provocative" tours

Lathi-Charge on Black Flag Demonstrators

By Our Correspondent

HYDERABAD: During the last one month, Chief Minister MR. K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY made two major public appearances in Telengana which precip'tated a police lathi-charge on the Telengana Praja Samithi black-flag demonstrators.

There is a great deal of similarity between the two incidents and this has led the Samithi leaders to believe that the Chief Minister is deliberately undertaking these "provocative" tours to sabotage an understanding between **Mrs. Gandhi** and **Dr. M. Chenna Reddy** on the Telengana issue.

The TPS Executive, which met here on August 21, in fact hurled this accusation in the face of the Chief Minister and warned him against deliberate provocations.

The two places were carefully chosen. The first visit was to Warangal in connection with the District's Backward Classes, Harijans and Girijans Conference. **Mr. N. Ramachandra Reddy,** leader of the Opposition and a prominent TPS leader, comes from this district. The black-flag demonstrators were standing on the roadside waiting for the Chief Minister's car. **According to the TPS circles, the police made a lathi-charge without provocation in which two Samithi MLAs were also injured. When the matter was raked up in the Assembly, the Government denied the incident.**

His second visit came off on August 19 in connection with the Karimnagar Backward Classes, Harijans and Girijans Convention. This district is represented by Education Minister **Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao,** one of the loyal lieutenants of the Chief Minister, **Mr. J. Chokka Rao,** Chairman of the Regional Committee, who has now fallen out with Mr. Brahmananda Reddy and come closer to Dr. M. Chenna Reddy and **Mr. P. Narsing Rao,** former General Secretary of the TPS. The visit was obviously planned to boost the stock of the Education Minister and undermine the influence of the Regional Committee Chairman and Mr. P. Narsing Rao.

The TPS demonstrators had openly declared their intention to wave black-flags. They had even told the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police. The S.P. gave them permission and arranged in such a manner as to avoid a clash between the TPS students and the CONGI supporters.

According to the TPS charge in the Assembly, the S.P. was against the use of force but the D.I.G. overruled him and precipitated a lathi-charge, in which two TPS MPs MR. M. SATYANARAYAN RAO and MR. KASHI RAM were injured by police before they were put under arrest.

In the State Assembly, Home Minister **Mr. J. Vengal Rao** denied the allegation and said that the MPs were injured in the stone-throwing resorted to by the Samithi volunteers. It is becoming clear day by day that the truce enforced between the TPS and the CONGI in view of the Delhi talks is getting on the nerves of the respective camps.

Not in favour of settlement

The Chief Minister is not in favour of any settlement neither are the Telengana Ministers and other CONGI leaders of the region. They very well know that any accord between Mrs. Gandhi and Dr. Chenna Reddy will be at their cost and therefore they are out to sabotage the conciliatory efforts now going on in Delhi.

The ministerialist strategy appears to be to strain the Samithi patience till the last so that the TPS leaders lose their confidence in Mrs. Gandhi. The Samithi leadership has seen through the game and is bent upon not walking into a familiar trap.

These aberrations are not bothering the Samithi leaders because they appear to be supremely confident about a change in the leadership of the Government after the Assembly session scheduled to end on September 10. Having received some firm assurances from Delhi they do not attach any importance to the Chief Minister's persistent claim that there is no question of any change in the leadership of the Government.

According to top Samithi sources, though Mrs. Gandhi has not directly spoken to Mr. Brahmananda Reddy about his stepping down, hints on her behalf have been already thrown by MR. C. SUBRAMANIAM, MR. K. C. PANT and MR. UMA SHANKAR DIXIT. So the Chief Minister is technically correct whenever he asserts that Mrs. Gandhi has not asked him to step down.

To preserve the integrity of the State now is the best time for the Centre. The TPS leadership consists of Mrs. Gandhi's admirers. The leadership is in a mood to listen to her. It has given up its separation demand provided two conditions are fulfilled. First is a change in the leadership, which at one stage Mr. Brahmananda Reddy himself had promised, and second a separate PCC for Telengana so that the fate of the Telengana politicians is not mortgaged to the numerical superiority of the Andhra region.

Mrs. Gandhi has seen the force behind these arguments but not the Chief Minister.

CORRECTION

In our issue dated Aug. 28 we had wrongly captioned the pic. on page 13. The picture was that of Mr. Ainthu Sahoo, Minister of Works, Transport and Forests, Orissa, and not of Mr. S. K. Mohanty. The error is regretted.

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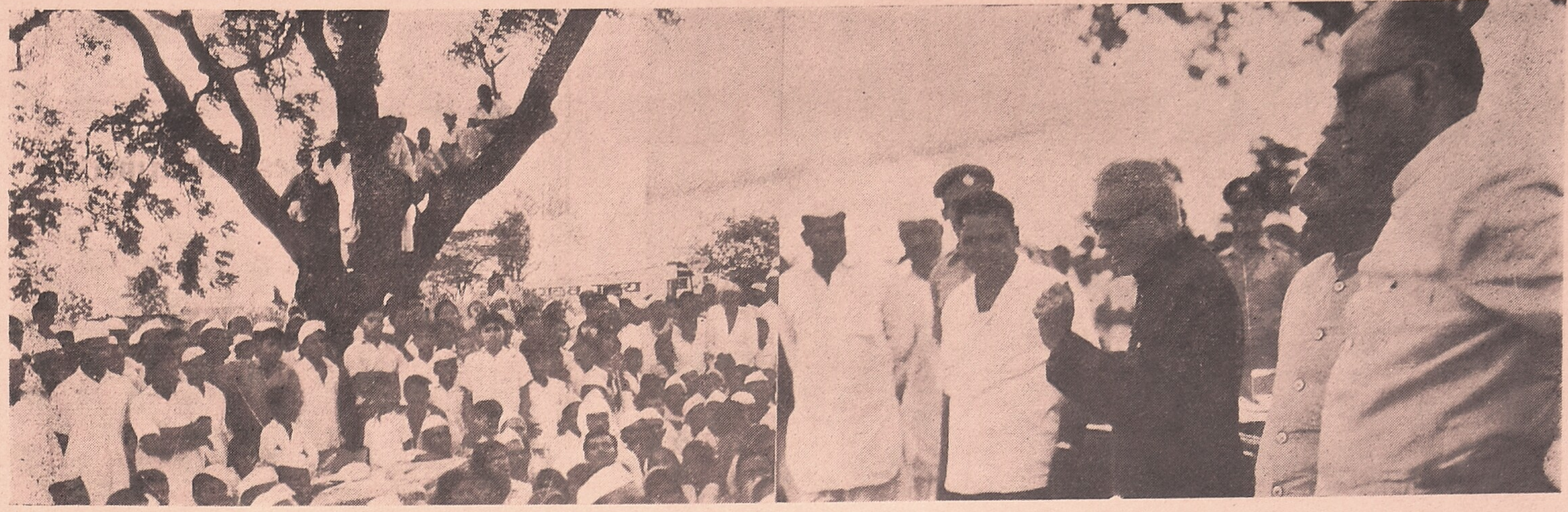


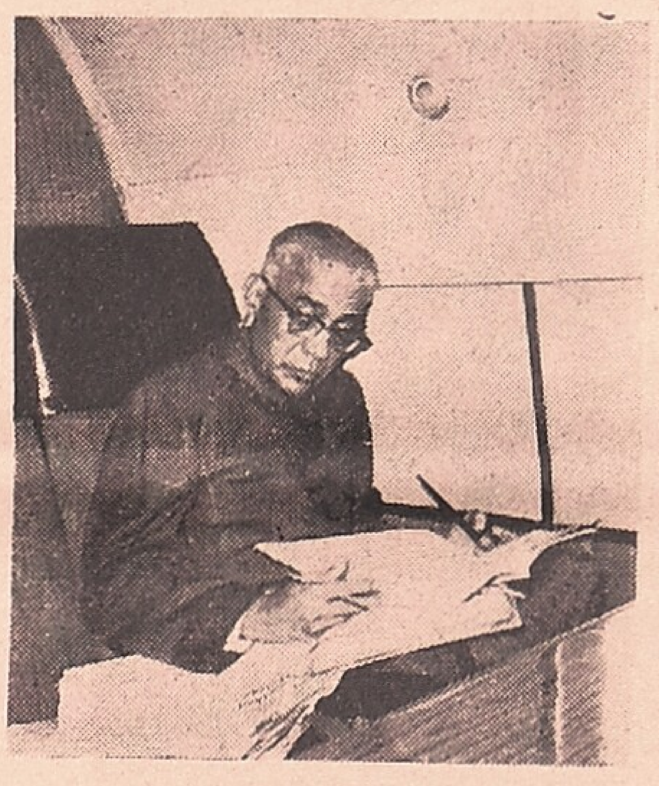
Chief Minister V. P. Naik addressing a roadside meeting near Dhulia during his recent tour of scarcity areas in the State. People climbed on trees to have a close look at their Chief Minister who, in turn, listened to their grievances and problems with great attention. Extreme right in the pic. is Revenue Minister H. G. Vartak.

Three days with V.P. Naik in Maharashtra's Scarcity Areas

By Irfan Khan

"GODS are angry with us" was JAYANT's simple explanation for the hardships he and other farmers in Maharashtra's scarcity-affected areas are now facing due to two consecutive years of crop failure. Equally simple was his solution of the problem: "more *havans* and more *yagnas* to please the Gods."

Most farmers share Jayant's views. Therefore, *havans* and *yagnas* are common sights in areas where scarcity has reached the danger mark. Jayant himself organised a *havan* in his village recently and, according to him, the rain god showed mercy in the next few days. It is this deep religious faith which helps most farmers to take the vagaries of nature in their stride.



Mr. Naik in the aircraft
Engrossed in files

Who is this Jayant? In his village in Sillod taluqa of Aurangabad district he is an important man. He owns 25 acres of good agricultural land. Till the scarcity in his area, he was a well-to-do farmer. The scarcity has affected him badly. He was forced to sell his animals in a nearby taluqa as he could not get water and fodder for them. He now works on a road-building scarcity relief project, 3 miles away from his village. This fetches him Rs. 2.50 a day, just enough for him to survive.

Jayant

Like Jayant, there are 15 lakh farmers in Maharashtra's scarcity-affected areas. Like Jayant, they are also battling for their survival. Some of them own as much as 60 acres of land but are today struggling for a living, for a job at a relief project started by the Government.

According to Chief Minister **Mr. V. P. Naik** it is the worst scarcity tragedy in 100 years. But the 75-year-old veteran agriculturist of Pimpri village, **Sakharam Abaji Patil**, who was awarded the Padma Shri early this year, recalled for CURRENT a tragedy similar to the present one some 52 years ago in the Marathwada area. People had then starved to death. It was a famine.

Chief Minister Naik does not think that famine is ever possible now with better and faster modes of transport. "Scarcity, yes; famine, no", he said. The famous 'Famine Code' which the British had made for India some decades ago has now been discarded by most State Governments. The Maharashtra Government has replaced it by a "Scarcity Manual" which is like a Bible to all government officers working in scarcity areas.

This correspondent accompanied Mr. Naik when he recently toured the scarcity areas in the State. It was a whirlwind tour in which Mr. Naik personally saw that all decisions of his Government were being properly implemented by district officials. **He also got first-hand knowledge of the sufferings of his people who flocked to him wherever he went.**

Mr. Naik uses a pickaxe to inaugurate work on the Rs. 43 crore Hatnur Dam project.

A Maharashtra Government aircraft flew Mr. Naik and his party out of Bombay into Nasik across the Sahyadris. During the flight he remained engrossed in files marked "Scarcity Top Priority". The bumps and jolts, which punctuated the flight due to bad weather, did not bother the Chief Minister.

Strenuous schedule

Revenue Minister **Mr. H. G. Vartak**, Revenue Secretary **Mr. V. Subramaniam** and Private Secretary **Mr. S. P. Mohoni** were his three main aides on the tour. They were always ready with details which the Chief Minister often needed to refer to while discussing relief measures with district officials.

From Nasik to Dhulia to Jalgaon to Buldhana to Akola to Amravati and Yeotmal was one mad rush. Mr. Naik's day began early in the morning and ended past midnight. It was a strenuous schedule, whoever had planned it. To Mr. Naik's credit, he kept every part of it

(*Continued on page 4*)

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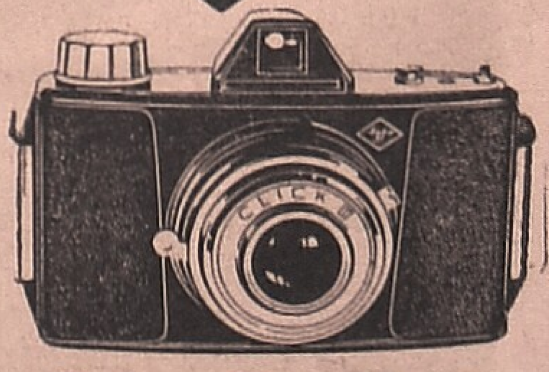

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At the Jalgaon Circuit House: Chief Minister V. P. Naik discussing scarcity relief measures with political and social workers of Jalgaon.

News about the CURRENT

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Naik launches Rs. 43-crore Hatnur Project to irrigate 1 lakh acres

(*Continued from page* 3)

though very often he could not be punctual to the timings announced. This was largely because huge crowds of people would often stop his motorcade to have a word with him or to present him with a petition of their plight.

Mr. Naik had many unscheduled encounters on the way with farmers, students and political groups. Most of them greeted him but a few also showed him black flags. He took both very sportingly. Once a police officer wanted him to change his route as a leftist political party was threatening to organise a morcha against him. Mr. Naik refused to change the route. And to the surprise of most people in his party, who were imagining broken windscreens and smashed cars, no such morcha came in the way. Actually it was only a threat. Mr. Naik met that threat with his counter-threat to pass by that same route.

The Chief Minister is a stickler for details. One could see that he appreciated officials with a good grasp of details of the work they were engaged in. Incompetence irritated him; excuses annoyed him; work done or in progress pleased him. He always talked to his officials with great respect. They reciprocated with devotion and loyalty.

At every meeting Mr. Naik would emphasise the human angle of the scarcity tragedy, seek everybody's co-operation in the gigantic task ahead and urge patience at every level. **The Chief Minister did not lose a single opportunity during his tour to condemn regionalism which was coming in the way of the State's integration and progress. In Jalgaon he told a gathering that if Marathwada is backward and suffering due to scarcity conditions, the other two regions of the State, namely Western Maharashtra and Vidarbha, should come to its aid.**

However, the main concern of Mr. Naik on this tour was the plight of the farmers whom he regards as the backbone of Maharashtra's economy. Industrial progress, without a sound agricultural base, is meaningless to him.

In fact most farmers, to whom this correspondent talked, were full of praise for Mr. Naik and his endeavours to improve the agricultural standards of the State. The doyen of Maharashtra's farmers, SAKHARAM ABAJI PATIL, would like no one but Mr. Naik as Chief Minister of Maharashtra for a long time to come.

Over 1,000 Petitions

While on tour Mr. Naik received over a thousand petitions from farmers. Most of them were for better irrigation facilities, more wells, and good roads. Mr. Naik would go through every petition carefully and insist that his officers should do the same. On two occasions he passed immediate orders. On one occasion he summoned the Collector of a nearby district to discuss an irrigation plan which a farmer had submitted to him on the roadside.

At Hatnur, near Jalgaon, Mr. Naik laid the foundation of a new irrigation scheme. It is the construction of a dam with an elaborate canal system. The entire scheme would cost the State exchequer Rs. 43 crores. It is designed to irrigate one lakh acres of land.

In Jalgaon and Akola Mr. Naik revealed that he had succeeded in persuading some nationalised banks to finance some specific projects in the State. Now the Reserve Bank's permission was being sought in the matter.

Maharashtra may be advanced industrially, but agriculturally it is certainly a backward State. According to Revenue Minister **Vartak**, in Maharashtra only eight per cent of the land has irrigation facilities while the average in other States was above 20 per cent. In Punjab, 75 per cent of the land was under irrigation.

To raise Maharashtra's eight per cent irrigated land to 25 per cent would require an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 crores on various irrigation schemes. The problem of Mr. Naik and his government is to find the money.

To be continued NEXT WEEK

Judgment

Delhi High Court on alleged tampering with ballot papers

BALRAJ MADHOK, a Jan Sangh leader who was declared defeated in the Lok Sabha elections in March, had filed a petition challenging the verdict of the Returning Officer. He alleged that chemicals were used on the ballot papers before polling began.

In his petition Mr. Madhok asked for the inspection of these ballot papers but the Election Commissioner turned down this request, thus depriving him of an opportunity to prove that his allegations were true. Mr. Madhok appealed against this verdict.

The judgment in this case was recently delivered by MR. JUSTICE ANDLEY of the Delhi High Court. It declares that the allegations in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the petition can be investigated in this petition. These allegations amount to saying that the mark on over a lakh of ballot papers is made by some mechanical or chemical process and not by the voter with the instrument supplied for the purpose.

In paragraph 20, the petitioner alleges that the verdict given by the Returning Officer is not the verdict of the electorate and that the defeat of the petitioner and the success of respondent No. 1 **(Shashi Bhushan)** was the result of the introduction, of fraudulent ballot papers to the tune of a lakh or more.

To substantiate this, the petitioner alleges:

1. That it was noticed by him and his counting agents that the stamp marks on the "cow and calf" symbol in thousands of ballot papers were uniform; they were exactly on the same spot and of uniform density and were bright and fresh compared to the stamp marks on the "deepak" symbol, which were diffused, dispersed and of varying density and brightness;

2. That on some ballot papers, the ink was spread over the whole symbol column as if it had been spread by a roller and was due to incomplete or defective treatment of the paper chemically;

3. That the colour and thickness of such ballot papers were different from the other ballot papers;

4. That in some ballot papers some faint marks appeared in places where they would normally not have appeared as a result of folding the ballot papers; and

5. That about a lakh of ballot papers bore markings which could not have been made by a human hand but could have been the result of a chemical process used on such papers.

As regards paragraph 21, it is alleged that as a result of the chemical treatment, the markings of the "cow and calf" symbol, which were not discernible at the time of the actual voting became visible at the time of counting. It is further alleged that a large number of ballot papers did not bear the signatures of the Presiding Officers, and as such they should have been considered invalid.

According to the judgment, the allegations in paragraphs 20 and 21 have to be read with the allegations in paragraph 11, in which the petitioner has alleged, inter alia that the result of the election insofar as it concerns respondent No. 1 has been materially affected, inter alia, by the receiving of votes which are void or by improper rejection of valid votes.

In the concluding paragraphs of his judgment, Justice Andley declares "that these allegations appear to me to fall clearly within Clause (b) of sub-rule (2) of rule 56 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, which relates to the counting of votes and provides that the Returning Officer shall reject a ballot paper if, to indicate the vote, it bears no mark at all or bears a mark made otherwise than with the instrument supplied for the purpose. The theory advanced by the petitioner has been described as fantastic by respondent No. 1 but that is a matter of proof with which I am not concerned at this stage. **If the allegations are true then undoubtedly such ballot papers which have been treated by a mechanical or chemical process should have been rejected under rule 56.**"

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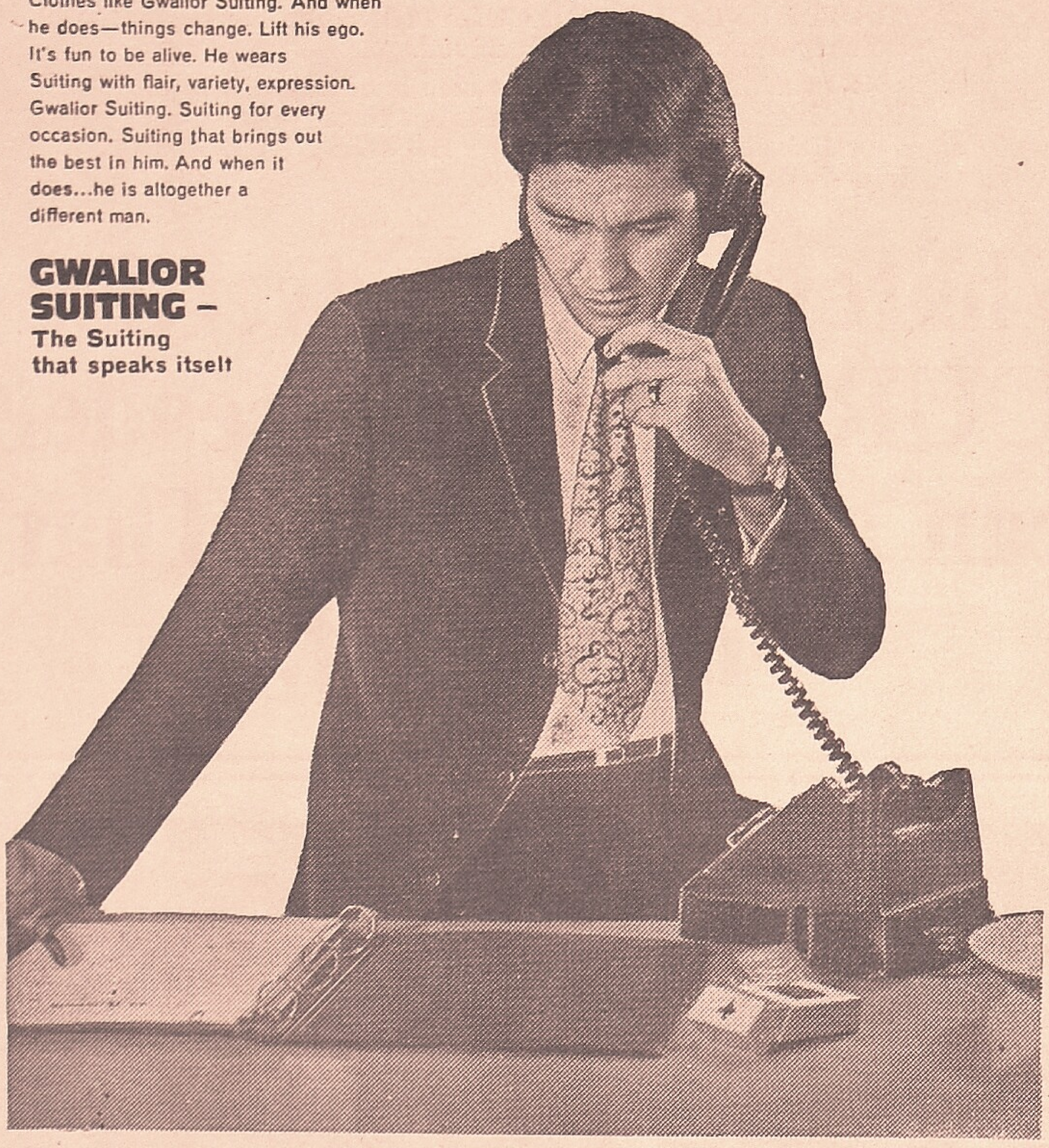

Ad Infinitum/GS/10

'Islamisation' of Kashmiris in Azad Kashmir

By Our Correspondent

JAMMU: For 'Islamisation' of Kashmiris in Pakistan-held Kashmir, the puppet regime of the so-called Azad Kashmir has ordered a number of measures. These include doing away with Western dress, change in the syllabi of text-books, induction of the 'Mujahid Scheme' in educational institutions and curbs on political activities.

All the employees have been asked to attend offices in salwar and pyjama. Even Tahmed will be allowed for the lower category of employees but not the Western dress including pant and bush-shirt.

For certain classes of officers, the wearing of Karakuli or the Fez, (Turkish cap) has been made obligatory.

Almost similar instructions have been issued for students of various educational institutions. Certain teachers, especially those who teach religion have been asked to grow beards.

To prepare the syllabi for educational institutions on "Islamic lines", a committee of "experts" has also been appointed.

The Scout movement in educational institutions has already been replaced by the 'Mujahid Scheme".

The President of the so-called Azad Kashmir Government, **Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan** has described the Scout movement as outdated and said: "We are Muslims, and, a Muslim must be a soldier".

The reports from across the cease-fire line also reveal that further curbs have been imposed on political activities and opposition to Kashmir's accession to Pakistan has been declared unlawful. Certain restrictions have also been imposed on civil liberties and no person or organisation is allowed to hold any gathering without the prior permission of certain specified officers.

Observers here feel that the religious feelings in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are being whipped up to divert the attention of Kashmiris from the increasing demand for an independent Kashmir and also to recruit "Mujahids" for sending them to East Bengal to fight against the freedom fighters there.

Lawyers' Bill In Privy Purse Case

NEW DELHI: The Union Government has so far incurred an expenditure of more than Rs. 1.36 lakhs in contesting the case relating to the abolition of privy purses.

As many as 15 leading advocates were engaged by the Union Government to appear in the case. The bill of five advocates amounted to Rs. 1,36,400. Bills of other advocates are being scrutinised.

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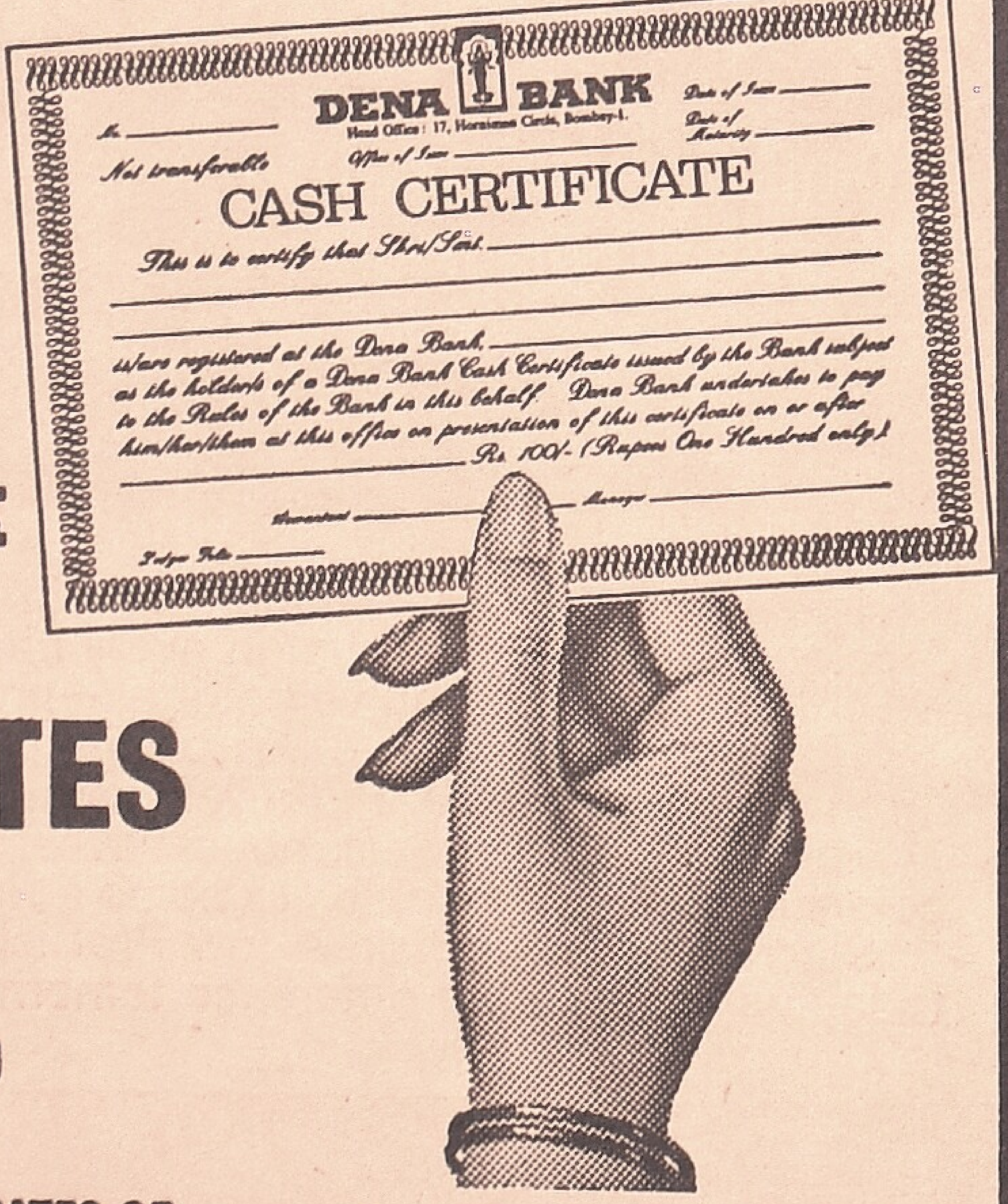

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Next Week

The Stars and You

by DAVID SAXBY

(Sept. 5 to 11)

CAPRICORN (December 21-January 19): People near you tend to act frivolously. A deceptive time. There is, however, a tremendous boost for work projects. This implies an improvement in your finances. Also new ways will be found for general increases right across the whole of your occupational plans.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18): Helpful changes in long-term plans and events that bring the young into line with your hopes make for happy family conditions. It will probably be an awkward time in a friendship, though. Ventures tend to come off well.

PISCES (February 19-March 20): A time of discussion and settlement of very private concerns. They meet with early success. A home problem also gets settled. In your social interests a bustling time of small importance. In work this seems a muddled, busy, yet extremely profitable period altogether.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Unusual family arrangements seem likely to occur. These could put a friendship on to a gratifying footing. Financially a period that destroys obstacles. But speculative things should not be touched at this stage.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20): Probably too emotional a time for tackling family questions. This is also an indifferent social week. Friends find it difficult nowadays to fit in with your plans. Workaday interests flourish and a vigorous beneficial trending for all financial plans is indicated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Farsighted plans affecting the home and friendships take off. It is a crowded time which could tax your physique. But it holds many happy incidents. Money benefits come from ventures and things that depend on long-term arrangements.

CANCER (June 21-July 20): Added responsibilities towards home life are indicated. There is an easy-going and happy course of events there. Social doings will tempt unwise overspending. If speculative things are avoided there is little financial change.

LEO (July 21-August 21): Most domestic issues need calmer trends. Cool these down. It could be that a new friendship is forming. For most other activities the week is steadily run and there is plenty of co-operation. No large changes in the financial situation appears to be very probable.

VIRGO (August 22-September 22): Unexpected vigour is indicated as this busy week opens. Socially and occupationally a hectic, successful phase. Only problems might arise from mail. This needs vigilance. New shaping of routines and plans for projects make for a profitable period.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22): Events of an unusually happy kind affect young relatives and most of your friendships. But people close to you make inroads on your finances. Long-term plans have discussion. These connect social and workaday interests.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 22): A good week for dealing with a family problem. Confidential interests also show signs of vast improvement. Elsewhere a time calling for vigilance in transactions (people acting deceptively) and some improved handling of projects.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 20): Very helpful mail and visits are signalled. Also you appear to be making an important new contact. News of a friend helps. There will be top-gear conditions for workaday interests provided those with long-term significance are gently handled. Money trends are sound.

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70 mocking, shocking Pages

(Continued from page 1)

has attracted attention in other parts of the world.

The **London Times** of Friday, August 20, carries a message from its correspondent in Moscow, **David Bonavia**, from which we take the liberty of quoting.

The 'London Times': "The Soviet Union has been angered and embarrassed by the circulation in Muslim countries of a booklet which attacks the Islamic faith, and which is attributed to an official Soviet news agency. The Novosti agency called a press conference today to denounce the booklet as a forgery.

"Mr. Karen Khachaturov, the organization's deputy chairman, suggested that it had been compiled by circles hostile to Russia's recent treaties with Egypt and India!" **When anything misfires, blame it on the C.I.A.! This has been an old habit of the Soviets.**

"Authorship of the booklet, entitled The Soviet Union and Islam", Bonavia says, "is attributed to **Mr. Rafik Nishanov,** an Uzbek, who is the Soviet Ambassador to Ceylon and the Maldives."

The fact that Nishanov is an Uzbek is VERY RELEVANT to us. The Uzbeks are by no means happy under Soviet 'raj' despite recent efforts of Moscow to placate them by admitting them into the 'sacred' Communist fold and even into the K.G.B.

As Bonavia points out: "The Soviet Union, with millions of Muslims in Kazakhstan, Central Asia and the Caucasus, has always been at pains to emphasize that they enjoy the 'religious freedom' which is incorporated in the constitution. **However, no one professing a religion may become a member of the Communist Party, and organized religious instruction of children is forbidden by the law."** Religion has always been scoffed at by the Communists of the Communist Union.

BONAVIA: "An ironical aspect of the alleged forgery is that its quotations from Lenin and Soviet scholars which have offended Muslims are apparently genuine."

There is no answer to that. After all the Soviets cannot disclaim Lenin—and Nishanov has only quoted and paraphrased Lenin and the early Marxists! So why call his Pamphlet of Disbelief "a fabrication"? We did not think a great military power like the Soviet Union would panic in a non-violent propaganda war, but it seems to have developed cold feet at the wrath their booklet has aroused.

"The Soviet Union prefers to keep such anti-religious comments for domestic consumption, while maintaining a liberal attitude towards religion in its propaganda abroad", Bonavia concludes, adding, "When asked about this, Mr. Khachaturov hesitated and then replied: **'You can take the Bible and digest it in such a way that it becomes blasphemy'."**

Shocking contents

However, before deciding whether the pamphlet is authentic or "a fabrication", let us have a look at some of its shocking contents. The author claims at the very beginning of this booklet that in Soviet Russia "each citizen can be guaranteed the freedom of belief OR DISBELIEF". **Under the freedom of disbelief, the author believes he can mock at the believers.**

The very motivation of the booklet is the author's attempt to discredit Islam as a basis of belief for any man in terms of the thinking which prevails in the Soviet Union. The author claims **"that the overwhelming majority of representatives of what is known as Moslem peoples have already departed from religion and do not observe these rites."**

In other words, he claims that an "overwhelming majority" of Muslims are anti-Islam! It is not surprising that wherever there are Muslims, they would be enraged by a statement so untrue as this.

Other significant quotes from "The Soviet Union and Islam":

(1) "Islam is an anti-scientific reactionary world concept, alien and inimical to the scientific Marxist-Leninist world concept. Islam is an opposition to the optimistic and life-affirming materialistic teaching; it is incompatible with the fundamental interests of the Soviet peoples; it prevents believers from being active and conscientious constructors of the Communist society.

"The Koran was compiled to please the Calif's feudal lords and merchants and its stories about paradise and hell are merely a means of converting the workers into will-less slaves. The Moslem holy days, especially Kurban Bayrami and the Ramadan fast, are survivals of a past when man believed that by magic he could bribe the evil spirits or gods. The hajj is a source of income for the merchants and feudalists of Arabia and has become of late an opportunity widely used by the imperialists for the recruitment of spies and diversionists." (p. 9 & 10)

(2) "Naturally, when the Koran was being written, not only its authors but those to whom it appealed, understood very little of natural phenomena and, failing to find a proper explanation, they believed that anything incomprehensible comes from God." (p. 10 & 11).

(3) "Let us now discuss the dogmas and teachings of the Koran affecting public life, the meaning and ways of development of human society.

"Popular works show that man has always tried to look ahead, to look into the future as a time for the achievement of his ideals, the fulfilment of his ideal of a free and happy life. **However, the Koran turns the eyes of man not forward, into the future, but back, into the past. According to the myth of the Koran concerning Adam and his wife who were unaware of hunger and of their nakedness in Paradise, who did not experience heat or thirst, the happy time in the history of mankind, its 'golden age', remained behind.**

"This story, quite similar to the Biblical story, **DOES NOT HAVE A GRAIN OF TRUTH** and is a harmful idealisation of primitive society. 'The idea that the primitive man was given what was necessary as a free gift from nature', wrote **V. I. Lenin,** 'is a foolish fable. . . . There has been no golden age behind us, and primitive man was entirely subordinated to the difficulty of existing, to the difficult fight with nature'." (p. 12)

(4) "The Koran lowers the dignity of man, his mind, his nobility, his boundless possibilities for the development of his creative forces. . . . If we trust the Koran, it would seem that the duty of man is not found in socially useful labour, not in the joint struggle of people of various countries for better life completely eliminating national and social oppression but in patiently supporting any misfortunes, the merciless oppression of the exploiters, turning one's thoughts toward personal 'salvation' in a non-existing heaven, in life after death. This is an anti-social, anti-people's teaching; it alienates the working people from the class struggle for the reorganisation of a society in which injustice reigns. This is why reactionary regimes are eager to support Islam." (p. 13 & 14).

(5) "Islam is the religion of a class society. Its doctrine of Paradise defends the interests of the exploiters. **The Koran promises the believers heavenly coolness, pleasant dreams and dark-eyed women—the houris—as a reward for their obedience."** (p. 14).

Could any writing be more insulting, more shameful about the Holy Book of the Muslims?

This is only the accumulation of insults up to page 14. The booklet itself is of 70 such mocking, shocking pages.

"Allah" to the Soviets

On the idea of **"Allah"** in the Koran, the Soviet author says:

(6) "The idea of Allah as being the one God, the Creator of the world, the Ruler of everything in nature and in the life of the people, developed under the period of the establishment of class relations among the Arabs. This idea developed in the minds of the people as the imaginary 'copy of the one Eastern despot' **(F. Engels)** and coincided with the left-overs of primitive beliefs, retained in Islam, according to which God was an anthropomorphic being. **Such a depiction of God abetted the interests of the dominating classes of the Kalifate and the other feudal and feudal-theocratic monarchies. With the help of such ideas the power of the Khalifs and the Sultans became divine, they called themselves 'the shadow of God on His earth'."** (p. 28).

Supposedly it is better to have a handful of Commissars prowling around to keep you on the straight and narrow path of Communism.

With considerable pride, the author says:

(7) "The times when it was considered that knowledge of the Koran was the greatest virtue and a sign of all-round education have passed on forever." (p. 33).

(8) "Islam, as any other religion, retreats when faced with the voice of the mind and knowledge. The dogmas and teachings of the Koran are historically limited and their ideas are incompatible with those of science and progress.

"Thus has **Klimovich,** the

(Continued on page 25)

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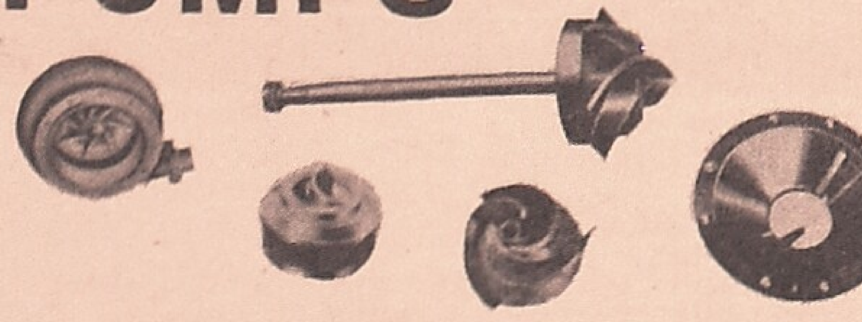

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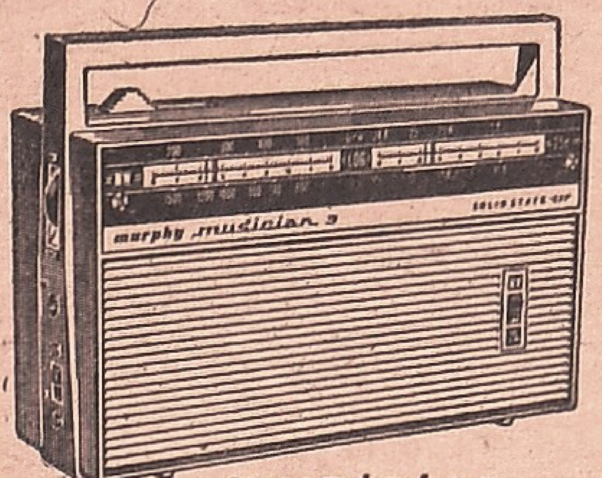

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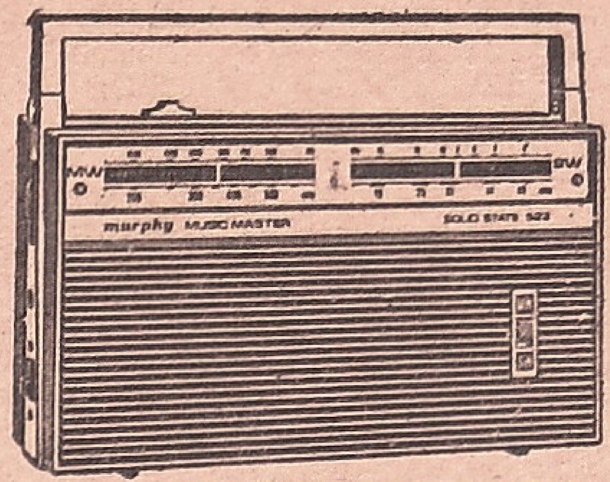

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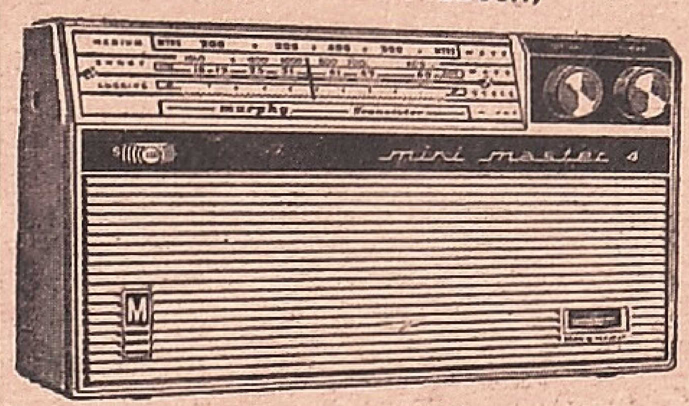

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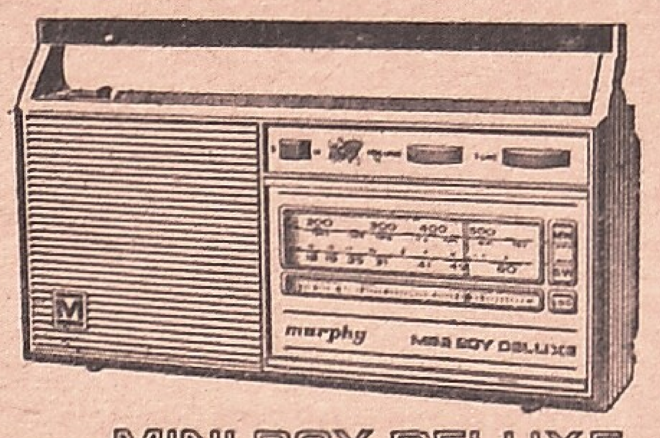

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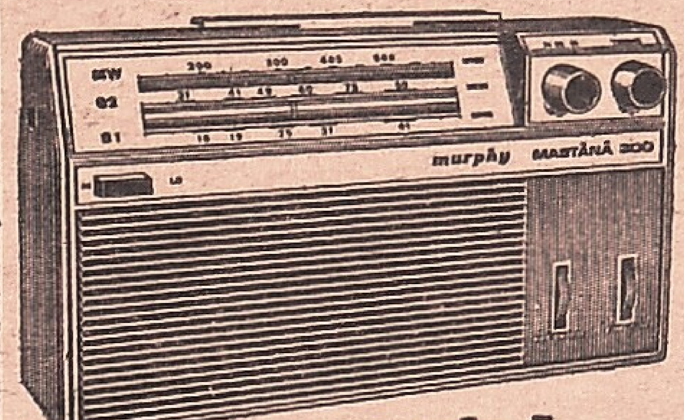

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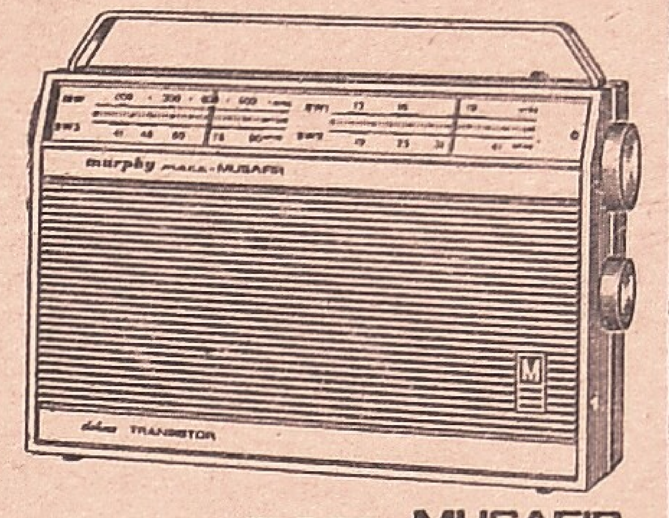

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CUSTODIAN

Dear Mr. Editor,

Cuts in Minister's Salaries

Dear Mr. Editor,

In the grave financial crisis facing the nation, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Central Government have offered a voluntary cut in their salaries of 10% and 5% respectively.

The people will certainly not be impressed with this token gesture. **The nation expects all the Ministers of the Central Government as also the Members of Parliament, to offer a 10% cut, not only in their salaries but also in the allowances drawn by them. The Secretaries including the Additional and Joint Secretaries should make a similar offer.**

Travelling allowances of Ministers and officials could well be cut by 20%. All other items of expenditure of the Central Government should also be subjected to a cut. Officiating promotions should be suspended and no vacancies filled, except where this is absolutely necessary.

If this is done, then we will appreciate the sermons which Ministers constantly preach on the subject of austerity, which, like charity, should begin at home. In Ceylon, MRS. BANDARANAIKE has enforced a regime of real austerity. Our Prime Minister would do well to emulate her example.

ALEX FRANCIS,
Poona.

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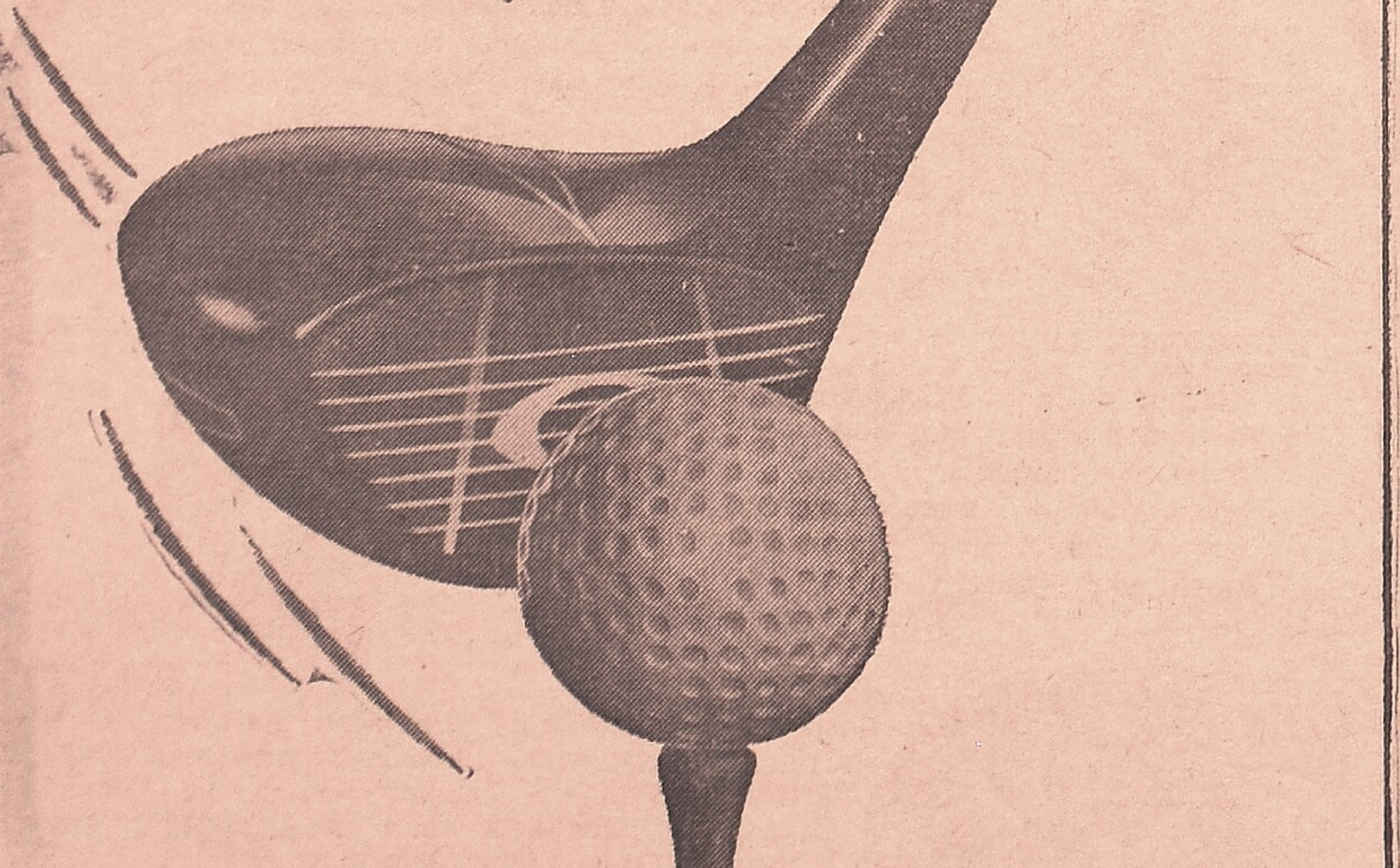

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G. D. Naidu

Dear Mr. Editor,

I was glad to read your story on **G. D. Naidu**, whom I knew well at one time. **I am glad you specifically mentioned one of his most constructive projects** —his housing scheme, wherein he can construct houses in just one day.

I think you were the one who featured the story about Mr. Naidu inviting the Union President, MR. GIRI, to lay the foundation stone on one of these low-priced houses. The President mentioned that there were many projects whose foundation stones are laid and that was that. Mr. Naidu must have laughed up his sleeve. He asked the President to open the house next day, the foundation stone for which he had laid only 24 hours earlier. He thus showed what enterprise, if properly directed, can achieve.

Multiply this all over India and the housing problem can be solved.

Use youths to build roads, as J. R. D. TATA said, and the employment problem is solved, but who listens to constructive advice!

But what you did forget to mention is Mr. Naidu's Small Car project. He did not merely make blueprints and send them to Delhi. He made a small car and took the Prime Minister in it. When the Delhi-wallas (planners) said the car would not give the necessary mileage claimed, he put in a specific amount and told Mrs. Gandhi that if her planners were right, she would have to walk back and if he brought her back, they (the planners) were wrong. You may care to check this story, but **I do know that he had made a small car and that IT WORKED.**

Once, having breakfast with him, I wondered if I was eating with a genius or a mad man and he read my thoughts! Most embarrassing.

V. MHATRE,
Bombay.

"Amiri Hatao"?

Dear Mr. Editor,

Judging from the intended 24th and 25th amendments to the Indian Constitution, alongside fresh and heavier taxation imposed this year, **it is quite clear that the election campaign slogan 'Garibi Hatao' was coined by our rulers as a ruse to disguise their actual programme of 'Amiri Hatao'.**

How much pleasanter it is to recall that when **President Kennedy** brought down the higher slab of income-tax and raised the lower level for taxation, he said, **"If Americans are rich, America is rich".**

Since independence, there have certainly been many more opportunities for the enterprising to become wealthy, and the Government should be happy that the economic level of society is raised. Our Government, however, maintains vigilance only to drag the rich down to the level of the poor, instead of introducing any tangible programme to help more and more poor to level up, which should be the major purpose of a democratic government.

The prerogative of owning property and other assets which one has striven legally to obtain, is irrevocably granted under our Constitution. The intended constitutional amendments for pulling, or I may say 'doing', down a few princes, are likely to become instruments of abuse and tyranny in the hands of unscrupulous politicians.

The immediate way to aid the poor, is to at least curb the ever-increasing demand of industrial labour and its subsequent go-slows and strikes, and to increase production, and thus, bring down the prices of everything which have gone up more that 24 times in the 24 years of our liberation.

DARA J. CAMA,
Bombay.

(The views expressed by correspondents are not necessarily the views of THE CURRENT or its Editor).

Secret Protocol In Treaty?

Dear Mr. Editor,

The Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation between the Republic of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics carries only twelve articles and it is explained that no secret or confidential protocol is attached to it.

Only the naive would believe this, because all treaties, whether of non-aggression or friendship, invariably carry additional protocol which remains secret from the people.

The two historic treaties signed between Russians and Germans in 1939, carried, besides the main articles, secret protocol which took the toll of millions of lives later on.

The treaties, the **Treaty of Non-Aggression between the U.S.S.R. and Germany and Soviet-German Friendship and Frontier Treaty,** were signed on August 23 and September 28, 1939 respectively by **Von Ribbentrop** and **V. Molotov.** The treaties and secret protocol make a fascinating study in treachery.

Article four of the secret additional protocol affixed to the Non-Aggression Treaty reads: **"This Protocol will be treated by both parties as strictly secret."** The Baltic States (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) and the whole of the Polish State were divided by the contracting parties and spheres of interests were demarcated according to the secret protocol while the main treaty was "guided by the desire to strengthen the cause of peace between the USSR and Germany."

The second Soviet-German Friendship and Frontier Treaty carried only five innocuous articles but contained **confidential Protocol, Secret Additional Protocol (1) and Secret Additional Protocol (2)** as well, which finished for good the independent existence of the Polish State. The Secret Additional Protocol (2) reads like this, **"neither party will tolerate in its territories any Polish agitation which has repercussions on the territories of the other party. They will suppress in their territories all beginnings of such agitation and inform each other of the appropriate measures for this purpose."** And mind you, it was a Friendship Treaty.

BRIJ MOHAN TOOFAN,
Member, National Committee of Socialist Party
New Delhi.

Computer Programming

Dear Mr. Editor,

What do you know! At last my Computer Programming course is paying dividends. I passed my programming in the 1st Division and was promised that there are 5000 vacancies for programmers in India.

I wasted not only my money but waited for 2 years, in which time I applied to a dozen or more places with no luck.

Now the Hyderabad horse racing season has begun and the jackpot tickets are being sold on punched cards. I've studied this and was taken aback when most of the other punters were anxious about their cards being punched correctly and some couldn't even understand them (this is the first year that we are having punched cards). I only had to glance at my ticket to know if it was correct or not. Great asset, isn't it?

KEITH ALLAN BRADBURY,
Hyderabad.

Radio Licence Fees

Dear Mr. Editor,

In 'The Current' of August 8, 1971, there was a report that AIR had gained considerably by Commercial broadcasting. **Now eleven more stations of AIR have been brought under this commercial service.**

When advertising through AIR was introduced, it was promised that the licence fee for radios would be reduced. It has not been done so far.

M.B.,
Madras.

Big Controversy In M. P.'s Medical Colleges

By Our Correspondent

RAIPUR: Differences among the Teaching Staff of Madhya Pradesh Medical Colleges and the Health Department have finally resulted in a ban on private practice by the Medical Teachers of the State. The ban has now given rise to a big controversy between the Clinical and Non-Clinical staff of the Medical Colleges of Madhya Pradesh.

The position of membership in the Madhya Pradesh Medical Teachers Association is very peculiar. The majority of the office bearers of the Association consists of Non-Clinical personnel while the mass membership consists of the Clinical staff. The office bearers have hailed the State Government's step while the clinical members are hostile as a result of the move.

The Secretariat and Directorate of the Public Health Department controlling the Medical Colleges is also dominated by the Non-Clinical staff and the biggest grievance of the Clinical staff is that a decision has been taken about them without consultation. The step of the Madhya Pradesh Government is likely to create a crisis in the State and a good number of the medical teachers might voluntarily retire or resign their jobs.

Forced to submit

The Clinical staff which includes eminent hands in Surgery, Medicine and other similar departments, maintains that they are not opposed to a ban on private practice. It was just that they had been forced to submit to the proposal by some cliques in the Secretariat and Public Health Directorate of Madhya Pradesh which were interested in humiliating them. They generally quote some instances when some leading Medical Teachers were kept waiting for three to four hours by the bosses in the Secretariat and Public Health Directorate for an interview.

The Non-Clinical staff, it seems, were sanctioned a Non-Practice Allowance ever since they joined, while for the Clinical staff it was specially mentioned in their service conditions, that they would be permitted to take up private practice.

Apart from this, in 1966, the Clinical Staff all over the State was asked to choose between a Central Health Pay Scale or the Private Practice. The majority of them opted for Central Health Pay Scales.

In a representation to the State Government the Medical Teachers stated that the salary given to the Clinical staff in Madhya Pradesh was the lowest in India. **In Madhya Pradesh, a Lecturer starts with Rs. 300 while a Professor begins with Rs. 950. In other neighbouring States, a Lecturer starts with Rs. 400 and a Professor with Rs. 1,100. In the Central Pay Scale a Lecturer gets Rs. 600 and a Professor Rs. 1,300. Apart from this, they are given Non-practicing Allowance, in most cases 50 per cent and Central D.A., while in Madhya Pradesh D.A. has not yet being given according to the Central rates.**

The Medical Teachers, particularly those belonging to the Clinical Sections, feel that they have been deliberately led into this situation. They have raised a demand that the Non-Practising Bill, which is expected to come into force early next month, should be implemented only after the grant of the Central Health Pay Scales.

The people in most of the areas of the State, particularly those in the backward areas, are most perturbed about this sudden step. The hospitals in these areas — Chhattisgarh, Vindhya Pradesh, etc. including those controlled by the Medical Colleges—are not well equipped and very poorly managed. The experts and specialists in the private sector are almost nil.

The people in these areas feel that this studden step will affect only the common man. Because of the miserable conditions in Government-managed hospitals, all those who could, have avoided hospitalisation, preferring private treatment by specialists and experts who are hundred per cent in the Medical Colleges.

Actually there are no private clinics in Chhattisgarh and Vindhya Pradesh regions and the step, which might not create a problem for the people of the advanced areas of Madhya Bharat and Bhopal regions, has certainly caused much concern and panic in the backward region of the State.

Inside story

The inside story behind this decision, said to have been kept pending for five years by the State Government, is allegedly the domination of the Secretariat and Directorate of Public Health over the CONGI Government of the State. The Medical Teachers, particularly the Clinical staff, are particularly annoyed that on one hand the CONGI Government did not accept their option submitted by them as far back as 1966, and on the other hand had taken a decision about them without consulting them.

A prominent and leading Teacher of one of the Clinical branches in a Medical College told this correspondent that private practice should be permitted to a very limited extent to provide experience to the Teachers in the Medical Colleges. He said: 'All our Teachers, who are known for their talents, come from the private sector.'

The Clinical Department teachers in the Medical Colleges also feel that the decision about them has been taken by the State Government on the recommendations of the Non-Clinical staff, who would now be getting a higher non-practicing allowance although their work load is less, compared to that of the Clinical department. The Teachers in the Non-Clinical sections have to take up only research and study while the Clinical Teachers have to take up research, study and hospital duties plus out-door duty on all the days of the week, including Sundays and holidays.

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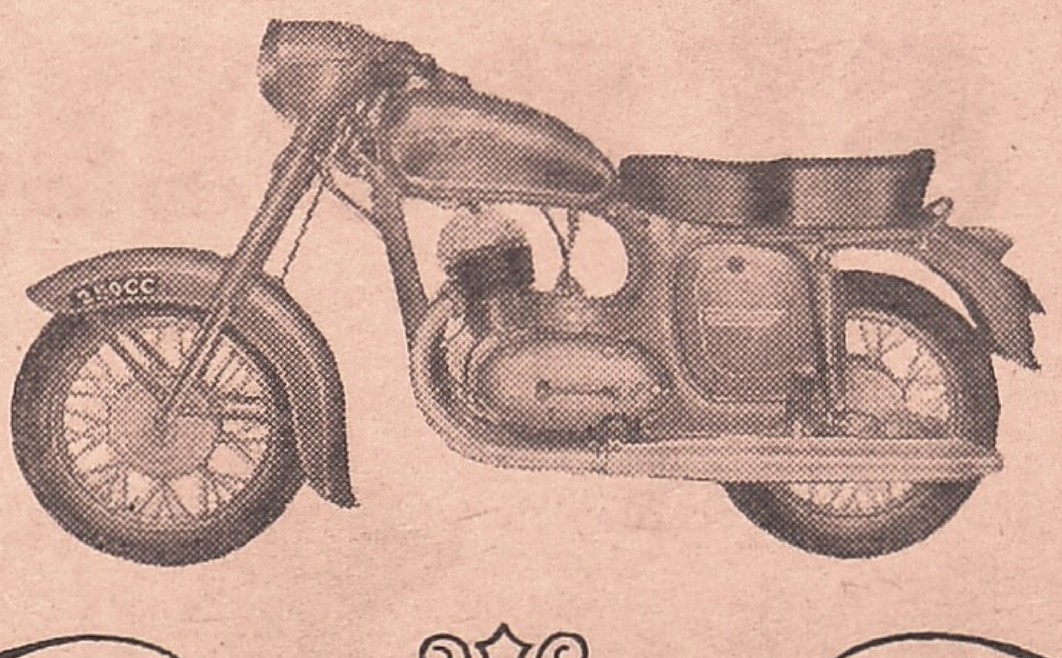

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Uttar Pradesh

Tripathi On His Way Out

By Our Correspondent

LUCKNOW: It is learned here that MR. KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI, CONGI Chief Minister, would resign from his office after the present budget session of the legislature.

This news is being circulated by sources close to the Prime Minister and her confidant, **Yash Pal Kapur.**

According to these sources, **Mrs. Gandhi** ordered an investigation into the charges against Mr. Tripathi's daughter-in-law and sons. These charges were published in a Hindi journal in a letter to the editor written by the State C.P.I. leader **Jharkhande Rai** and repeated several times in the legislature, quoting the letter.

It is said that the Prime Minister had a talk with Mr. Tripathi on August 9 when the latter visited Delhi and led the U.F. contingent of the CONGI demonstrators. The Prime Minister, according to these sources, showed the report of the Central Intelligence to Mr. Tripathi and explained to him that the reputation of her party had been adversely affected in her home State. She also mentioned names of a few other Ministers against whom charges of corruption had been made in the legislature.

She is reported to have advised Mr. Tripathi that he should in his own interest resign from the Chief Ministership after the budget session. The word has also spread that Mr. Tripathi after resigning from the post of Chief Ministership would be offered the governor's post.

Mr. Tripathi's position in the organisation is much weaker now. He wanted **Mr. S. M. Jafar** to be appointed as one of the general secretaries of the state CONGI. He pressed **Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai**, the present president of the State CONGI, to appoint him. Mr. Jafar was a powerful secretary during the presidentship of Mr. Tripathi. Not only has Mr. Jafar been refused the post of the secretary but he has not even been nominated in the executive of the party. Mr. Jafar is believed to have spoilt the image of the B.K.D. Chairman, **Choudhri Charan Singh.**

Kamlapati Tripathi
Offered governorship?

All the nominated members of the executive committee of the state CONGI are persons who have opposed Mr. Tripathi at one time or the other and would not hesitate to oppose him again.

Mr. Tripathi has also become weak in the CONGI legislature party. At one time he was the undisputed leader but now most of the Scheduled State legislators are united under the leadership of DR. SITA RAM, a senior Cabinet Minister. Thakur legislators are also not happy with Mr. Tripathi.

The influence of **Mr. Dinesh Singh** is being utilised to unite Thakur legislators against Mr. Tripathi. Muslim legislators have a grouse against the stand Mr. Tripathi took on Urdu. Mr. Tripathi had announced that all facilities for promotion of Urdu would be made available by the State Government but said that it could not be accorded equal status with Hindi. He said that it would be impossible to make Urdu the second official language of the State.

During the election campaign, Mrs Gandhi had said that she saw no reason in denying Urdu the status of the second official language in Uttar Pradesh and some other states. It is only the Brahmin legislators who are solidly behind Mr. Tripathi but Thakur, scheduled caste and Muslim legislators outnumber Brahmin legislators.

No Choice

Thus Mr. Tripathi would have no other choice except to oblige the Prime Minister and accept the offer of the post of the Governor.

However, **Mr. C. B. Gupta**, CONGO leader, is reported to have assured Mr. Tripathi of his support in case Mrs. Gandhi forces him to quit the post of Chief Minister. The support of Mr. Gupta would mean the support of the CONGO legislators. Even Jan Sangh and other legislators could be won over on the side of Mr. Tripathi against the Prime Minister. But in that case, it is likely that the Prime Minister might manipulate the dissolution of the Assembly in order to force the state into a mid-term election along with a number of other states.

This is what most of the non-CONGI leaders want to avoid. The non-CONGI leaders do not have sufficient faith in Mr. Tripathi that he would take a bold stand against the Prime Minister and would deprive himself of the offer of the Governor's post.

Mr. Tripathi has not been attending the legislature after his return from Delhi. He is said to be ill.

Even the names for the Chief Minister's gadi have been circulated. The most significant names are **Mr. K. C. Pant**, Union State Minister, and **Mr. Chandrajeet Yadav**, one of the general secretaries of the CONGI.

They say that the plan of the Prime Minister is to plunge the state into a mid-term election along with other states in February-March 1972. They believe that Mr. Tripathi, while resigning from the post of the Chief Minister, would advise the Governor to dissolve the Assembly.

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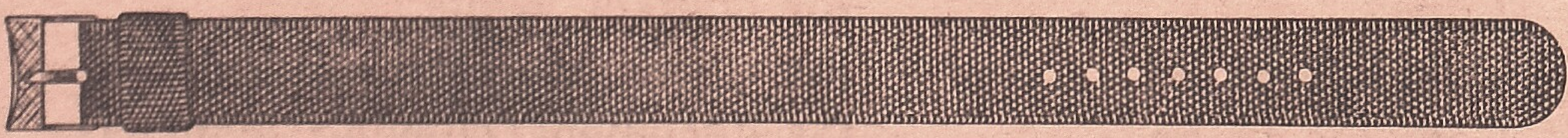

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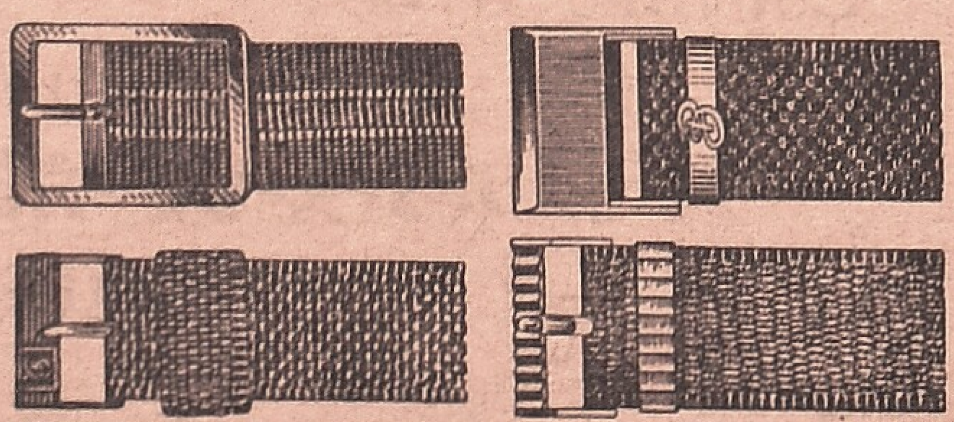

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Great Soviet Writer on Police Raj in Soviet Russia

Nobel Prize Winner Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn issued on August 13, a letter of protest to the Soviet Secret Police challenging their years of harassment of himself and his friends. The following is the text of that letter.

To the Minister of Government Security of the U.S.S.R. Andropov:

For many years I have borne in silence the lawlessness of your employees: the inspection of all my correspondence, the confiscation of half of it, the search of my correspondents' homes and their official and administrative persecution, the spying around my house, the shadowing of visitors, the tapping of telephone conversations the drilling of holes in ceilings, the placing of recording apparatus in my city apartment and garden plot, and a persistent slander campaign against me from speakers' platforms when they are offered to employees of your Ministry.

But after the raid yesterday I will no longer be silent. My country house in the village of Rozhdestvo, Naro - Fominsky Rayon was empty, and the eavesdroppers counted on my absence. Having returned to Moscow because I was taken suddenly ill, I had asked my friend Alenxander Gorlov to go out to the country house for an automobile part. But it turned out there was no lock on the house and voices could be heard from inside. Gorlov stepped inside and demanded the robbers' documents. In the small structure, where three or four can barely turn round,' there were about ten of them, in **plain clothes.**

Beat him cruelly

On the command of the senior officer "to the woods with him and silence him"—they bound Gorlov, knocked him down, and dragged him face down into the woods and beat him cruelly. Simultaneously, others were running by a circuitous route through the bushes, carrying to their car packages, papers, objects, perhaps also a part from the apparatus they had brought themselves. However, Gorlov fought back vigorously and yelled, summoning witnesses. Neighbours from other garden plots came running in response to his shouts and barred the robbers' way to the highway and demanded their documents. Then one of the robbers presented a red identification card and the neighbours let them pass. **They led Gorlov, his face mutilated and his suit torn to ribbons, to the car.** "Fine methods you have", he said to those who conducted him.

"We are on an operation, and on an operation we can do anything."

Captain—According to the documents he presented to the neighbours—**Ivanov,** according to his personal statement, first took Gorlov to the Naro-Fominsky Militia, where the local officers greeted "Ivanov" with deference. There, "Ivanov" demanded from Gorlov a written explanation of what had happened. Although he had been fiercely beaten, Gorlov put in writing the purpose of his trip and all the circumstances. After that the senior robber demanded that Gorlov sign an oath of secrecy. Gorlov flatly refused.

Then they set off for Moscow and on the road the senior robber bombarded Gorlov with literally the following phrases: "If Solzhenitsyn finds out what took place at the dacha, it's all over with you. Your official career (Gorlov is a candidate of Technical Sciences and has presented his Doctoral dissertation for Defence, works in the Institute Giprotis of Gosstroya of the U.S.S.R.) will go no further, you will not be able to defend any dissertation. **This will affect your family and children and, if necessary, we will put you in prison."**

Those who know our way of life know the full feasibility of these threats. But Gorlov did not give in to them, refused to sign the pledge, and now he is threatened with reprisal.

I demand from you, Citizen Minister, the public naming of all the robbers, their punishment as criminals and an explanation of the incident. Otherwise I can only believe that you sent them.

To the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, U.S.S.R., **A. N. Kosygin:**

I am forwarding you a copy of my letter to the Minister of State Security. For all of the enumerated lawless actions I consider him personally responsible. If the government of the U.S.S.R. does not share in these actions of Minister Andropov, I will expect an investigation.

A. SOLZHENITSYN,
13 August 1971.

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SIMLA IS SLOWLY SINKING!

Municipality Wakes Up

By Our Correspondent

SIMLA: The historic town of Simla is sinking and sagging gradually. Will the town, which witnessed many a momentous decision by the British Government, including the drama of the last days of British rule in India, disintegrate?

Following torrential and continuous rains from early August, an over 300 yard-area between the Ridge, situated under which is the town's water reservoir, and the Lakkar Bazar, has sunk by several feet. A number of buildings, including a cinema, two school buildings, a girls' hostel building of the local medical college and a score of residential buildings, have developed huge cracks and fissures and have been declared unsafe.

The supporting structures and partition walls of some of the residential buildings have been parted, as if by some unseen power. After seeing this, one gets the impression that the area was shaken by a severe earthquake or hit by a cyclone.

The first incident of sinking was noticed as far back as in 1942, when Simla was hit by continuously heavy rains for nearly twenty-five days, resulting in extensive damage to human life and property. A similar situation was witnessed in Simla in 1959 and 1965, when it was hit by rain storms which pulled down a number of posh buildings. The sinking of Simla, once acclaimed as the "queen of the hills", in 1965, received world-wide publicity. It was then a district of the composite Punjab.

Warning Ignored

The local Municipal authorities ignored these warnings and adopted an ostrich-like attitude. After the British left, the Simla Municipal authorities indiscriminately permitted the felling of trees at the foot of the Jakhu hill and construction of buildings in areas where it was strictly prohibited till 1947. The British had prohibited construction activities in those parts of the town which were not built on a hard rocky surface, but on loose earth, supported by trees. Besides, there was plenty of underground seepage of water in these areas and drains were constructed for the regular discharge of this seeping water.

After the local authorities permitted the felling of trees and construction work, the drainage system, both underground and above, got blocked and water seepage continued within the earth, making it loose. Thus it sank due to the heavy pressure over it. **Due to the loose earth underneath, a number of buildings built in the prohibited areas appear tilted.**

Some time back, when it was reported that a portion of the Ridge had sunk due to heavy rains, the Municipal authorities brushed it aside as the 'settling of the town'. But when the town was engulfed by this natural calamity, a couple of weeks ago, the Municipal authorities woke up at last.

People have been evacuated from unsafe buildings to safer places and the entire sinking area has been declared as a dangerous zone. A constant vigil is being maintained over the sinking portions and people prohibited from visiting this section of the town. There are some buildings which seem to be shaking under the weight of their inmates or by the falling of boulders or trees.

Living in fear

There are other parts of the town like the Skating Rink, the Circular and Cart Roads and other areas which have shown signs of sinking and of the earth sucking in whatever comes in its way. The sinking parts of these two roads have been closed to all types of vehicular traffic.

The entire town now lives in fear and after nightfall, the sinking portions particularly, bear a bleak, deserted look. People get panicky and even a small crack in the earth lets loose a lot of rumours. The widespread heavy rains which have been lashing Himachal Pradesh from early August, have resulted in heavy loss of life and extensive damage to property and cattle wealth.

So far, nearly eighty persons in different parts of the State are reported to have been killed due to house collapses, landslides, crashing of trees, lightning and drowning. Besides, 700 heads of cattle being washed away, 750 houses, 50 cow-sheds, 15 shops, 70 water mills, one Government office building and one police station have collapsed in the wake of heavy rains. There are some areas which are still cut off and no information about the extent of damage has been received from these areas.

Meanwhile, the State Government has appealed to the Central Government to depute geological and other experts to investigate the causes for the sinking of Simla and to suggest immediate remedial measures to save this historic town from vanishing completely.

The D.A.V. High School building in Simla. It has cracked due to big land fissures under it. So have other buildings.

PUNJAB

Univ. Language Formula On Lines Of Gujarat

By Our Correspondent

CHANDIGARH: Following the Supreme Court judgment early last May, striking down as unconstitutional the Punjabi (Patiala) University notification of June 15, 1970, under which Punjabi in Gurumukhi script became the sole or exclusive medium of instruction and examination up to the degree level, the Punjab Government advised the University to reconsider its decision in the light of this judgment.

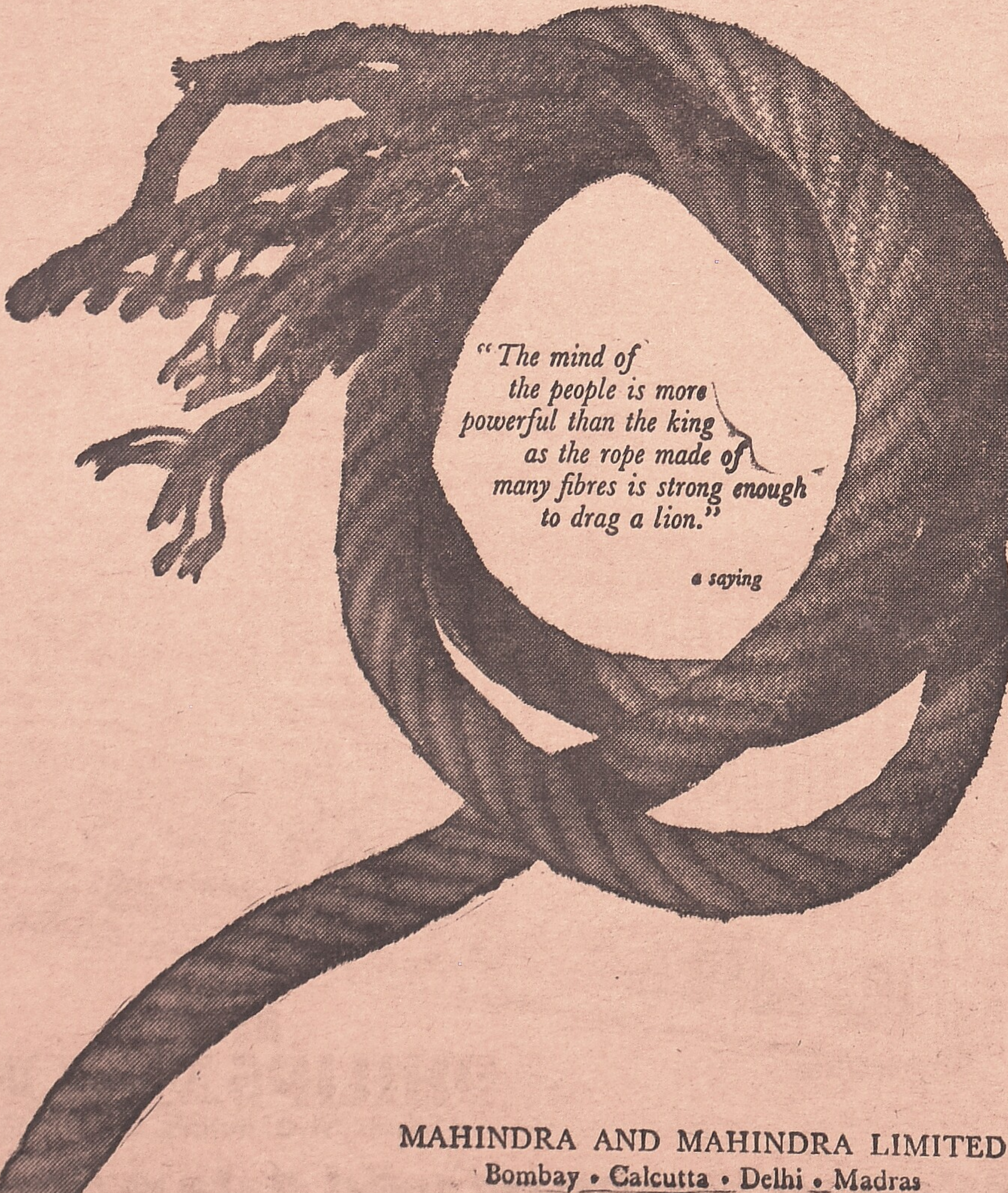
After a careful consideration, the Syndicate, accepting the judgment of the Supreme Court, recommended the language pattern followed by Gujarat, namely, while Punjabi would continue as the medium of instruction and examination for under-graduate courses, the affiliated colleges would be at liberty to choose any of the other three languages—English, Hindi or Urdu—as the medium of instruction. The students would be free to use Punjabi or English or Hindi or Urdu as the medium of examination.

The Supreme Court judgement tantamounts to acceptance of the three-language formula which has come to be regarded as the bedrock of the language policy in the country. It would, it is felt, satisfy the two main linguistic groups in the State which have been at loggerheads all these years.

The extremist elements among the Akalis were initially peeved at the Supreme Court judgment and demanded the amendment of the Constitution with a view to providing freedom to the universities to propagate the official language (in this case Punjabi) of the State to which they belonged. This did not carry conviction with the leading lights of the Akali Dal who recommended acceptance of the Supreme Court judgment.

It may be recalled here that the real bone of contention between the Akalis and the Jan Sangh was the language issue which led to the parting of the ways between the two, with the resignation, in June last year, of the Jan Sangh from the Akali-led coalition. **Since then, the communal graph in Punjab has been showing a definite upward trend.**

The judgment in question is seen by political observers here as a potent instrument, which may lead to a real understanding between Hindus and Sikhs and thus stabilise Punjab politics.



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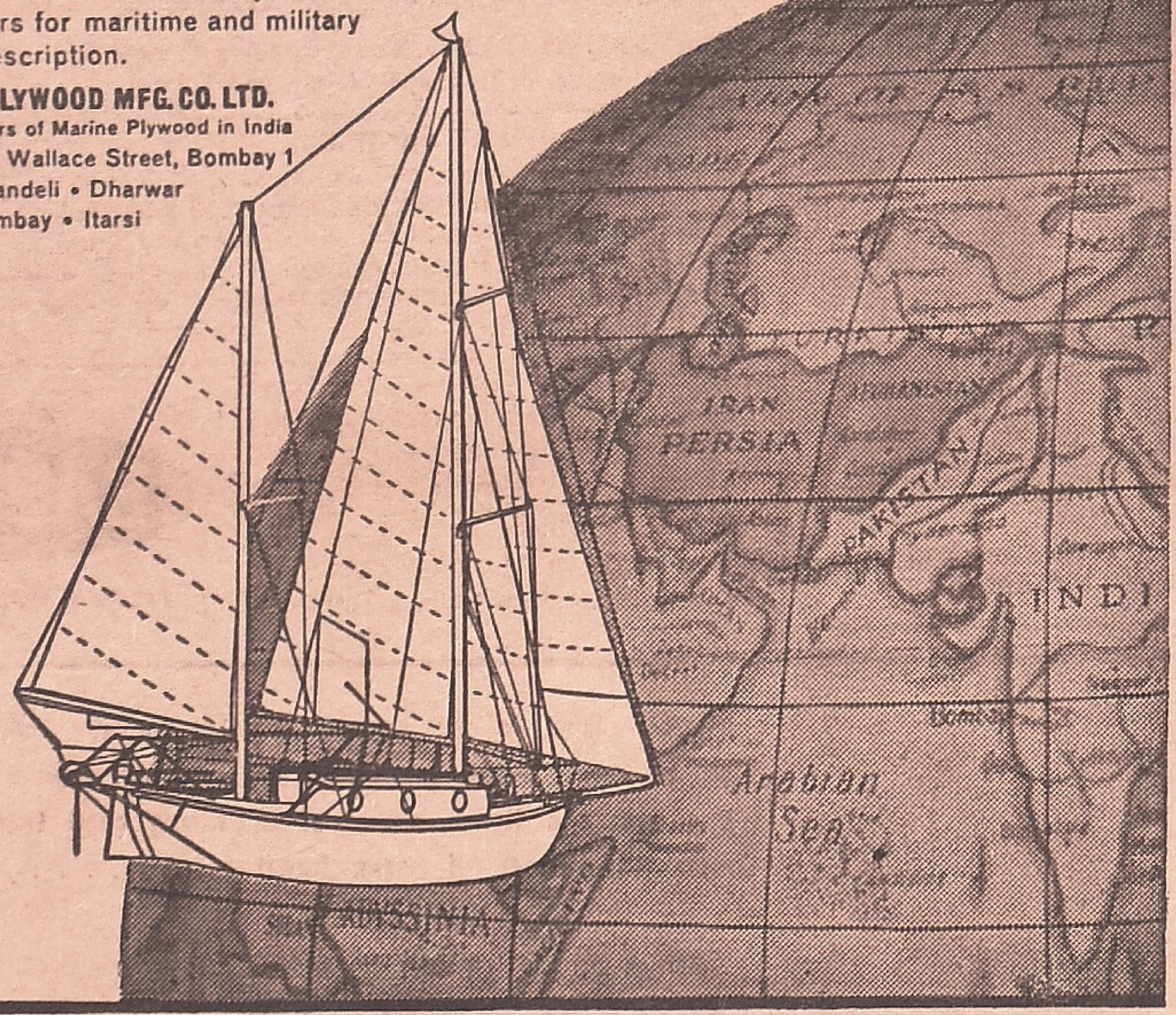

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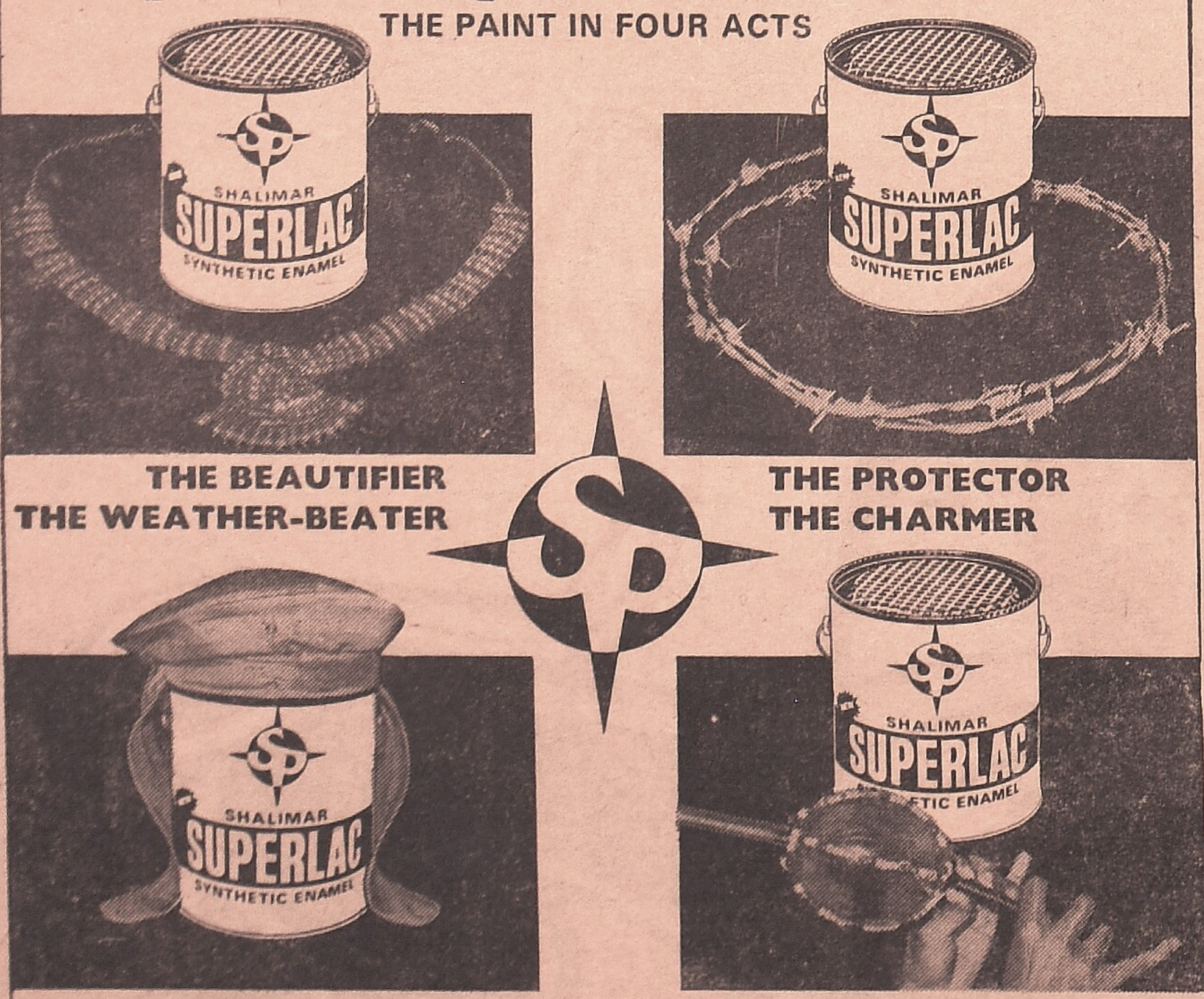

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What has confounded sceptics, who may dismiss predictions as mere conjecture, is Mr. Lakhani's fairly accurate revelations about their past, their temperament and matters relating to their health.

His visit to Current office was a revelation to many of us, in more ways than one. Here is the story of a man robbed of his sight by glaucoma, yet a bread-winner for his family. He told us proudly that one of his sons was a medical student and another, who guided him to our office, was studying commerce.

He recounted the unfortunate circumstances of his life without any trace of bitterness in his voice. He was the Bombay business and trade representative of the former princely States of Janjira, Kutch and Kotah and was attached to certain departments of Jamnagar and Bhavnagar States. He was also an unofficial representative of Hyderabad and Bhopal States. Following the merger of the States all these sources of income dried up.

Mr. Lakhani, who is now 64, lost his sight following two attacks of glaucoma, in 1948 and then in 1951. He was then faced with two options: lose himself in the twilight gloom that encircled him; or search for a new means of livelihood to sustain him and his family.

It was then that he got the idea of making a profession of his hobby, palmistry and astrology, which he had picked up in 1932. He had prepared the horoscope and kundali of many a State princess before then. A visit to Germany to consult a specialist for his failing sight, gave him his first introduction to "feeler" palmistry (also called German or Manheim palmistry) through a German father. This line of palmistry originated from the old Indian "sparsha shastra".

As his sight failed him, he became increasingly dependent on his fingertips to reveal the lines on the palm. And with constant use his astonishingly sensitive fingertips can see clearer than ever—into the future.

Mr. Lakhani is a law graduate, but has not taken his Sanad. He had entered business after finishing college. Occasionally, he argues income-tax appeals before the Appellate Commissioner. "They (the Commissioners) are very patient and co-operative" he said.

He was emphatic that neither palmistry nor astrology was infallible, though four times out of five, the predictions turn out to be right.

It was from the upper middle class that he drew most of his clients. People are generally more eager to know about their marriage prospects, love affairs and health. Mr. Lakhani collects a moderate ten rupees as his fee.

He was modest about his forecasts on the political scene. During the **Mrs. Gandhi-Morarji** tussle for premiership, he had predicted Mrs. Gandhi's success, and more recently, her victory in the mid-term poll. (Mr. Lakhani is available at his house on 80-84, Dongri Street, Bombay 9).

A. Lakhani
A revelation

Side-burns tracked

A CURRENT reader, **Mr. E. H. Cisavaid**, fascinated by his neighbour's side-burns, asked him the million-dollar question, "Where and how did it all start?" To which his neighbour had this enlightening tale to tell:

Long ago there was a pilot in America whose escapades in the air and on land (with the neighbourhood girls) was the talk of the town and the despair of other young men.

This dashing young man was tragically killed in an air crash. To keep his memory alive, a statue of him was proposed to be erected at the busiest street in the locality.

But his faithful friends refused to give in to such unexciting tributes. So they all met one day and set to thinking what it was that made him so popular, other than his handsome looks, his keen wit, his bouncing vitality, his charm, and his gentleness when dealing with old people and children. They realised it was that bit of hair that swept over the sides of his face.

On this stunning discovery, the group broke in wild disorder and each man went home vowing to keep his friend's memory alive.

And gradually the memory became an inspiration and the inspiration, a fashion.

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MR. JAMSHED BURJOR AGA of Bombay has been elected President of the Indian Institute of Architects for the period 1971-73.

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67 Hotel Projects in India

NEW DELHI: The India Tourism Development Corporation, a public sector undertaking, has approved 67 hotel projects in the country in the private sector.

The largest number of hotels will be constructed in Bombay, followed by Madras, Delhi and Calcutta. In these cities, 30 new hotels are proposed to be constructed.

With the completion of all these projects, a total of 7,000 rooms will be added to the existing hotel capacity of about 9659 beds.

Last year, 17 projects in the private sector were approved from the viewpoint of their suitability for foreign tourists.

Madhya Pradesh — Sharp Differences Between The Governor And C. M.

By Our Correspondent

RAIPUR: It is now no longer a secret that the Madhya Pradesh Governor, MR. S. N. SINHA wants President's Rule in the State. The political reasons, if any, or the background to this is unknown, but the differences between the Governor, a former CONGI Union Minister and the CONGI Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, MR. S. C. SHUKLA are becoming more and more evident, daily.

Political circles see the hand of the CONGI boss MR. D. P. MISHRA behind these differences, but Mr. Sinha very likely has his reasons for disliking the present Chief Minister.

The differences arose with the failure of Chief Minister Shukla to reach Raj Bhavan and call on the Governor immediately after his arrival in Madhya Pradesh. He came two hours after the time fixed for the interview. The Governor who believes in formality, declined to meet him that day and the Chief Minister was asked to come the next day.

The difficulty with Mr. Shukla is that he is very informal. This informality has made him a very busy person in Madhya Pradesh. Visitors knock on his door from early morning till late at night and when he is on tour, till 2 or 3 in the morning. It is also not necessary for one to fix up an interview with him in advance, though people sometimes have to wait for hours due to the big rush of visitors from all sections and classes of people.

This has affected the Chief Minister's punctuality and people take it for granted that he will reach all the functions at least an hour late. Mr. Shukla neither denies an interview to anyone nor sets a time limit for these interviews. He reached the Raj Bhavan late because of this, probably never expecting the Governor to get offended.

Prejudiced

The Governor who probably has been prejudiced against Mr. Shukla with this first impression, is in no mood to stay on in Madhya Pradesh, if the latter continues to be Chief Minister after the General Elections of 1972. Some other minor incidents, including the use of a Government plane, have added to these differences and now the two do not like to travel together on the same plane.

The Government plane was once not made available to the Governor when he wanted to fly to Delhi, as the Chief Minister had already

Satyanarain Sinha
Pomp and colour

flown by the same to the capital. The Governor had to stay at the Mysore Government House at New Delhi on another occasion, while the Chief Minister and his party including some non-officials stayed at Madhya Pradesh House.

The Governor is also not happy with the present Raj Bhavan of the State Government and wants it to be expanded and made more attractive. Expansion work for developing one more wing has already started there. The Governor is personally in favour of the pomp and colour that goes with this office. Mr. Shukla though accustomed to comfortable living, cannot, because of his informality, maintain any pomp or show.

Another factor troubling the Governor is his political oblivion. Despite being a non-party man in the Constitution, Mr. Sinha has CONGI blood in his veins. After his assessment of the political climate in the State, he seems convinced that the CONGI, with the leadership of any person, be it Mr. Shukla or someone else including Mr. D. P. Mishra, might not be able to get a sufficient number of seats in the General Elections to form a Government in Madhya Pradesh.

He is said to be convinced that the joint opposition of the RAJMATA OF GWALIOR, MAHARANI VIJAYA RAJE SCINDIA, the MAHARAJA OF REWA, MAHARAJA MARTAND and Jan Sangh, might break the CONGI in Madhya Pradesh. He is therefore said to be favouring President's Rule in Madhya Pradesh and General Elections in M.P., either earlier (which might not be possible) or after the General Elections of 1972, to enable the CONGI to fare well in the State.

The Governor has informally already communicated his views to those who are at the helm of affairs.

Our Scientists Abroad

NEW DELHI: Nearly 6,000 Indian scientists and 15,000 engineers and technologists are estimated to be abroad, according to a report published by the Technical Manpower Bulletin of CSIR.

The Government's efforts to bring the scientists and engineers back home have not been very effective.

In a bid to check the further immigration of these persons abroad, a proposal to create supernumerary posts for the appointment of outstanding scientists is under consideration.

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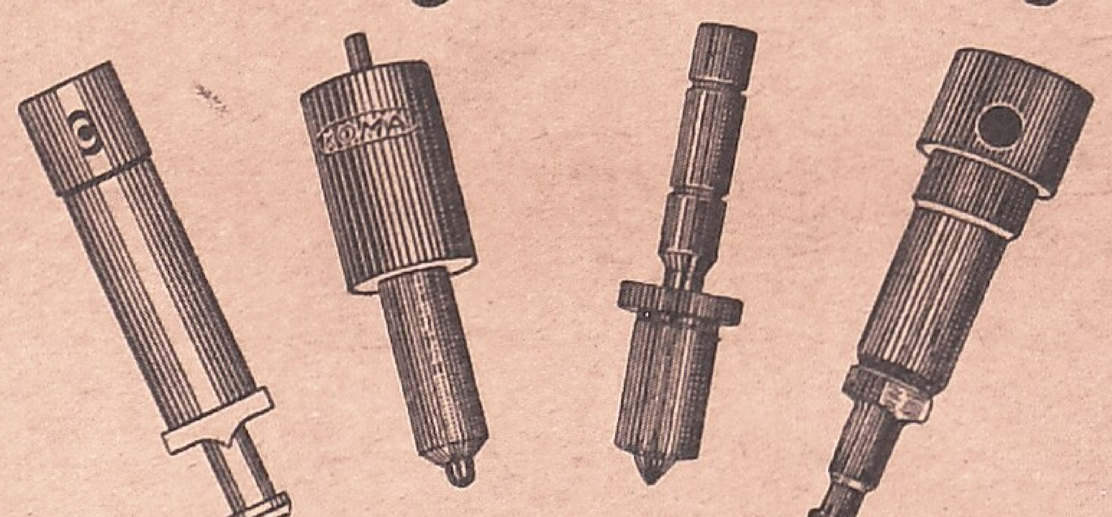

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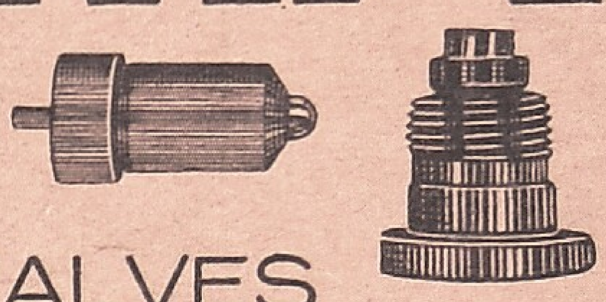

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CC. 2519 (A)

What kind of Toothpaste do the astronauts use?

For many years I have been successfully using a combination of three parts of NEEM toothpaste and one part of FORHANS toothpaste.

That way I combine the antiseptic and germicidal properties of neem (mangosa) plus the fluoride, astringency and cleaning property of Forhans.

Use the finger, not the brush, my dentist says. Firmly massage the gums for about two minutes, then rinse the mouth well with water to remove food particles. (I also use the old fashioned UL, the tongue cleaner).

And most important—**clean the teeth at bedtime for maximum effect and visit your dentist at least once a year to assure complete oral safety and hygiene.**

J. G. JHAVERI,
Bombay.

Sweet toothpaste injures the gums

Since leaving the Army in 1947, I have rarely used soap. Even a brush and toothpaste are an occasional routine use—I use 'Trifala' Churna (Amla-Hirda-Beheda powder) for cleaning my teeth. As a result I have lost only two teeth, although I am 67 years old. I prescribe the same for my patients for teeth decay, pyorrhoea etc. The results are satisfactory as I supplement it with tissue remedies. Using a hard toothbrush with sweetish toothpaste is injurious to the gums in particular and oral hygiene in general.

(Dr.) R. K. GARDE,
Bombay.

84, yet has most of his teeth

You have asked for opinions on Toothpaste. I am sending the following, not as my opinions, but as my experience of more than 64 years, not with any desire to win a prize but for the benefit of your numerous readers, most of whom are definitely users of toothpaste.

During my very long life—I am now 84—I have used almost all the toothpastes sold in India from 1907, the year I came to Bombay. Prior to that, down in Mangalore, we were using charcoal, either plain or with salt.

Now at this age I have all my upper jaw teeth solid and useful and also some of the lower ones. I ascribe the longevity of my teeth partly to heredity, as my father had most of his teeth usefully working till almost his death at 96, but chiefly to the use of BINACA toothpaste, for the last nearly 20 years. Since I first began to use Binaca, I have lost just two teeth and those also could have been saved if **Binaca Fluoride** was put on the market much earlier—so at least I feel about it.

But the chief point is that the toothpaste should be used for full five minutes or so shortly after the last meal at night. Brushing one's teeth in the morning, though useful, is not essential.

When using the paste, the average Indian spits out frequently with the result that he throws out the paste. Close your lips and keep on brushing for five minutes, then spit out and do not gargle. BINACA Fluoride is beneficial to the human system or at any rate, is not harmful.

I am not an agent for Ciba nor have I any connection with any dealer of toothpastes. I write only for the benefit of the numerous readers of Current for which paper I have the highest admiration.

C. A. J. LOBO,
Haliyal, N. Kanara.

Fruit-flavoured

Toothpaste, as we all know, is a kind of paste used for cleaning our teeth. Nearly everyone I know uses a toothpaste. Indeed one does not like to associate with or sit near a person with bad breath, and a person who does not clean his teeth is more likely to suffer from bad breath.

I feel that a smile is worth a fortune (you might have heard the story about a little girl, who smiled at an old man whom everyone despised. So when he died, he left all his fortune to the little girl, just because she gave him a lovely smile). Your smile may light up your face or it may be dimmed by unclean and dingy teeth. Thus it

Our Young Critics

it very important to brush our teeth with toothpaste, regularly.

There are many kinds of toothpaste which I have used, since the age of four. The first toothpaste I remember using was **Binaca.** I was really thrilled because it had a taste I liked. I also remember eating it (you know how children love to do it, the first time).

In the past 11 years I have used several kinds of toothpaste including PEPSODENT, NEEM, FORHANS, COLGATE AND KOLYNOS.

Pepsodent, I think, is quite a good toothpaste, with a tingling taste which lingers for quite awhile. After using Neem I felt I had not cleaned my teeth at all. And as for Forhans, I felt it had the taste of 'saunf'. Kolynos gave me the feeling that my mouth was on fire. The toothpaste I now use is Binaca Flouride. It is a fabulous toothpaste with a rich foam and a kind of taste which I cannot describe.

There is something I would like to know: **What kind of toothpaste do the astronauts use?** Also when was toothpaste discovered and where?

I think there should be a special toothpaste for young children who have just started brushing their teeth. You know how some children avoid brushing their teeth. This toothpaste should have a taste like orange, lemon, mango, pepperment, strawberry, banana and several other flavours. The toothpaste should have a nursery rhyme or mythological name. This will encourage children to brush their teeth regularly. Don't you think so?

Sujata Masih, (Age 15),
M-16, Bhagat Singh Market,
Baird Road,
New Delhi-1. **Rs. 9.**

No dentist trouble

From the teething stage to the false teeth age, we should dutifully look after our teeth. They play a vital role in our lives (for they help in the mastication of our food and we must have food to live).

All of us therefore, should begin the day and the morning by brushing our teeth, no matter how busy we are.

One may use toothpaste or tooth powder along with a tooth brush. Or, if a traditionalist, one may use charcoal powder and one's finger to clean one's teeth.

There is a wide range of toothpastes from which one can choose and pick. I use **'Pepsodent'.** I prefer this brand because of its minted flavour. A regular brush with Pepsodent keeps you from developing bad breath and bleeding gums. It fights tooth decay and what's more, keeps your teeth sparkling white throughout the day.

No need for me to run to the dentist either.

R. Moses, (Age 16),
70/7, Diamond Harbour Road,
Kidderpore,
Calcutta 23. **Rs. 5.**

Toothpaste and brush rolled into one

I use a 'dantan', which is just a twig of the babul tree.

The 'dantan' is a poor man's toothpaste and toothbrush rolled into one. When you chew the twig, it gives out a juice which cleanses the teeth admirably. The chewing also turns the chewed end into a crude toothbrush that serves its purpose well.

The 'dantan' may seem an odd tooth-cleaner in these modern times but believe me, it cleans the teeth, strengthens the gums, and keeps the mouth free from odour.

Besides, compared to all the available toothpastes and toothbrushes, a dantan is very economical.

What a great relief it is that our dantan has not caught the eye of our Finance Minister!

Padmaja Patil, (Age 17),
2-16, Soman Building,
New Charni Road, Girgaum,
Bombay 4. **Rs. 5.**

Wastage

Toothpaste is not a commodity used all over the country. The poor get along with salt or neem (datan). Many people in the backward areas have not even heard of toothpaste. As urbanisation increases, the consumption of toothpastes rises.

Tooth-powders are not very much in demand. Too expensive for the poor, the rich don't like it because it has to be applied with the fingers, for the proper effect.

Incidentally, there is one defect in a tube of paste. After applying some paste on the brush, some paste always remains outside the tube. This is a waste, plus it becomes dffiicult to screw the cap on. **This defect may be remedied by making the orifice smaller so that only a small amount of paste remains outside.**

I use COLGATE, because it gives me plenty of foam and has a pleasing, peppermint taste. FORHANS is good for the gums but produces insufficient foam.

The nice thing about BINACA is that its commercials make interesting listening—on AIR or the programme from Radio Ceylon on Wednesday nights.

Rajesh A. K. Thapar, (Age 17),
CII-23, Bapa Nagar,
Dr. Zakir Hussain Rd.,
New Delhi. **Rs. 5.**

TOOTH PASTE: The New Subject

HERE is the first instalment of interesting comments, from the old and young, on the subject of toothpaste, which only goes to prove that some people do not take this consumer item for granted after all. Taste, foam, price, availability, tooth preservation, clean breath and sometimes, sheer habit, are some of the reasons people prefer one tooth-cleansing agent to another.

What about you? Do you give this commodity any conscious thought? If you do, as you read this, send in your comments, avoiding, however, any obvious attempt to promote a particular brand.

Young Critics' opinions on the subject will be paid for at the usual rates.

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India . . .

In case you missed it . . .

● **The Sirkar Committee, set up to inquire into the working of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, has recommended that Ministers should be removed from its governing body.**

● The post-budget rise in prices has continued unchecked and the index at the end of July was nearly 5% higher than that of the corresponding period last year.

● **Deccan College, Poona, plans to publish a 500,000-word Sanskrit dictionary in 15 to 20 volumes. The first volume is expected to be brought out by 1976. Work on the dictionary has been going on for 15 years.**

● The Assam Government has declared an amnesty for Mizo rebels, with an expiry date set for December 15.

● The army is equipped with post-1960 arms, said the Defence Minister.

● **The production of anti-tank guided missiles has begun at Bharat Dynamics, Hyderabad, with the technical collaboration of a foreign firm.**

● All army formations and units will undergo battle inoculation training under a new scheme.

● Yugoslavia has ordered 3,600 rail wagons from India at a cost of Rs. 48 crores.

● India has secured from Sudan an order for railway wagons worth Rs. 60 lakhs.

● A Tata firm has designed a totally indigenous 10-digit electronic desk-top calculator costing Rs. 13,000.

● **When Class IV employees of a municipal hospital in Delhi went on a strike, seriously disrupting services for the 1,500 patients who visit the hospital daily, the Medical Health Officer and the Standing Committee Chairman were not aware of the strike till on the third day.**

● The gross tax arrears in the country amounts to Rs. 738 crores and the net arrears Rs. 500 crores.

● Five bank frauds involving Rs. 130.73 lakhs were reported in the nationalised banking sector between January and June, 1971.

● **Mr. Seth Achal Sangh** and 26 other M.P.s have in a memorandum to the Prime Minister, demanded a high level probe into the affairs of a firm lifting sand from the Jamuna banks. The firms were alleged to have taken leases in the name of various bogus persons.

● The Maharashtra Government has fixed Rs. 31 crores a year as the sum to be spent on the "garibi hatao" programme.

● **Government hospitals in Secunderabad are running short of X-ray films. Some operations are seriously hampered by this shortage.**

● The Rajasthan Government has decided to create an engineers' pool whereby unemployed engineers will be appointed on a work charge basis in Government engineering departments. A graduate will be paid Rs. 250 per month and a diploma holder Rs. 100.

● **Northern Railway has decided to remove alarm chains in many of its trains, as their being misused is causing schedules to be upset.**

● The Estimates Committee is distressed that the workers education programme has not aroused enthusiasm in any quarter.

● **One of the rare white tigers in the world has died in the Delhi Zoo under mysterious circumstances.**

● Indian Airlines has been repeatedly advertising additional Boeing-707 flights to certain important cities from August 1, when, in fact, no such flights were being run.

● Floods in Bihar cannot be effectively controlled so long as the Ganga flows, said **Mr. K. L. Rao.**

● **India's literacy rate has gone up from 16.67% in 1951 to 29.34% this year. The female literacy rate has gone up ao 18.44% and male literacy to 39.51%.**

● Of the six most literate cities in India, four are in Kerala and two in Tamil Nadu. They are: Allepey (70%), Nagercoil (69.30%), Trivandrum (69.38%), Cochin (69.30%), Quilon (68.48%) and Coimbatore (65.42%).

● **Among the urban population there are only 859 females to 1000 males while there are 952 females for 1000 males in the rural population.**

● The Kerala Government is considering a pay rise to MLAs.

Hindi Letters Replied To In English

NEW DELHI: Only 42 per cent of the letters written in Hindi by the Delhi Administration to the various Union Ministries were replied to in Hindi, according to official figures.

The Delhi Administration addressed nearly 1580 letters in Hindi to the Ministries during January-March 1971. Of these, only 670 letters were replied to, in Hindi.

The maximum number of letters (463) were sent to the Union Ministry of Education and Social Welfare followed by Ministry of Home Affairs (398) and Ministry of Law and Justice (161) by the Administration. The number of letters replied to by these Ministries were 220 and 142 respectively.

The number of letters received by other Ministries were: Ministry of Finance (46); Ministry of Agriculture (54); Ministry of Foreign Trade (16); Ministry of Health and Family Planning (46); Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (40); Ministry of Irrigation & Power (34); Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation (86); Department of Parliamentary Affairs (49); Cabinet Secretariat (96); and Prime Minister's Secretariat (61).

Departments of Health and Works and Housing were the only two departments which replied in Hindi to all letters received from the Administration. They got 35 and seven letters respectively from Administration and replied to all in Hindi.

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Why CURRENT clicks with its readers

By Jal Cooper

"THE CURRENT has come to stay", is the opinion of the people that count in India's public life, and that too, in spite of a genuine threat to its future existence in view of its heavy losses in production.

Editor's beautiful prose, sane guidance, special features . . .

Therefore, as a regular reader of this popular weekly since its inception, I decided to analyse the reasons: "Why 'THE CURRENT' clicks with its readers". To do this, I merely had to refer to its August 14 issue.

The first thing that has ALWAYS impressed me about this paper is the editor's writings, always expressed in beautiful prose and a style of his own. His analysis of political events, however galling they may appear to be at times to pro-INDIRA readers like me, has always proved its test by later events.

His all-time efforts to topicalise an event with pictures always earns him a high mark in attractive journalism, and I am confident that every reader will agree with me after seeing the picture of the gentleman with a very long beard published on the front page of the August 11 issue for a story with a moral!

But these are trivial matters in comparison with our national interests, and that is why one must thank **Mr. Karaka** for his genuine humble efforts to tender some sane advice to all of us in the matters of Bangla Desh recognition and war with Pakistan. Both are explosive issues and an emotional move will drive us into an abyss which will set back our economic progress by several decades.

"CURRENT" Special

An article of great importance, particularly to the people of Maharashtra—once again on the front page of the August 14 issue—is the appreciation of important things in our country's political life by the editor, which he has dished up as **"A CURRENT Special!** The editor queries: "Are you leaving us, Mr. Naik?" In fact, I would go a step further and ask Mr. Naik: "Are we to be orphaned?" as we shall surely be on the departure of this mild-natured administrator.

Turning to page two of the August 11 issue, I was moved to tears by the moving tribute paid by Mr. Karaka, a truly deserving requiem, to MR. R. F. S. TALYARKHAN. The tribute not only lets the reader know everything about the activities of the departed person's life, but also brings out forcibly the reason why such a glowing and moving tribute was paid to him, which automatically makes the readers join in echoing 'R.I.P.'.

Page five carries a very lively narration of the editor's visit to Coimbatore and his meeting the septugenarian, **Mr. G. D. Naidu**, our nation's **Henry Ford** and **Edison** combined! For years I have regarded Mr. Naidu as exciting a character as an imaginative writer could create, a character who had always the unfailing hallmark of a creative genius.

To bring the religious doings of such an "irreligious" person before his readers in his inimitable style truly earns an accolade of praise for Mr. Karaka. G. D. Naidu is performing a truly noble deed in finding employment for our youngsters, particularly for those from the poorer classes; and therefore if our Government cannot be persuaded to help him in his noble work, it is all the more incumbent on our millionaires and big industrialists to go to his succour and make his training institute a truly national asset.

The Airlines

Considering the popularity of air travel today, the feature: "What are the PLUS POINTS of your airline?" MUST be read by those who travel abroad by air. In India, we have a surfeit of airlines to choose from for our travels to foreign countries. Air travel has now become a possibility for many of us by the relaxation of the 'P' form regulations.

New Tie Widths

The up-to-date man was completely ignored by Mr. Karaka, until recently. The emphasis was always on the 'working girl', as if the 'boy' did not work at all! Not only this. 'THE CURRENT' always carried columns and columns of lively news, recording the doings of ladies from all walks of life.

Therefore, I was not only surprised but truly delighted to read about a man's attire, the ubiquitous 'Tie', in a new column called "For Men Only".

Revolutionary Way

At present, the air in our country is so polluted with the cries of revolution for every matter under the sun, that we feel strangulated. And therefore, the spread-over on two pages 12-13 of the August 14 issue of "THE CURENT" comes as a fresh breeze to give us an insight into the revolutionary activities before independence.

India

The new feature "India . . . In case you missed it" is a truly MUST column for a 'weekly' paper. It has proved a very popular feature with its readers.

Regular Features

The columns **'Dear Mr. Editor', 'Big Business', 'The Women', 'Sport', 'Week in Parliament'** are regular features which are avidly read. The "Woman's page" is of special value this time in view of its subject, the rising prices, which are definitely spreading 'garibi' among middle-class people.

"The Current" has been responsible for bringing to light many lapses and episodes of racing in Maharashtra. Therefore, the thousands of race-goers in the premier state of India will compliment the editor for bringing to light the questionable run of 'Freedom Lover'.

Even a gourmet reader will not dare to deny the fact that in a small sum of 40 paise, he is provided with first class reading fare every week.

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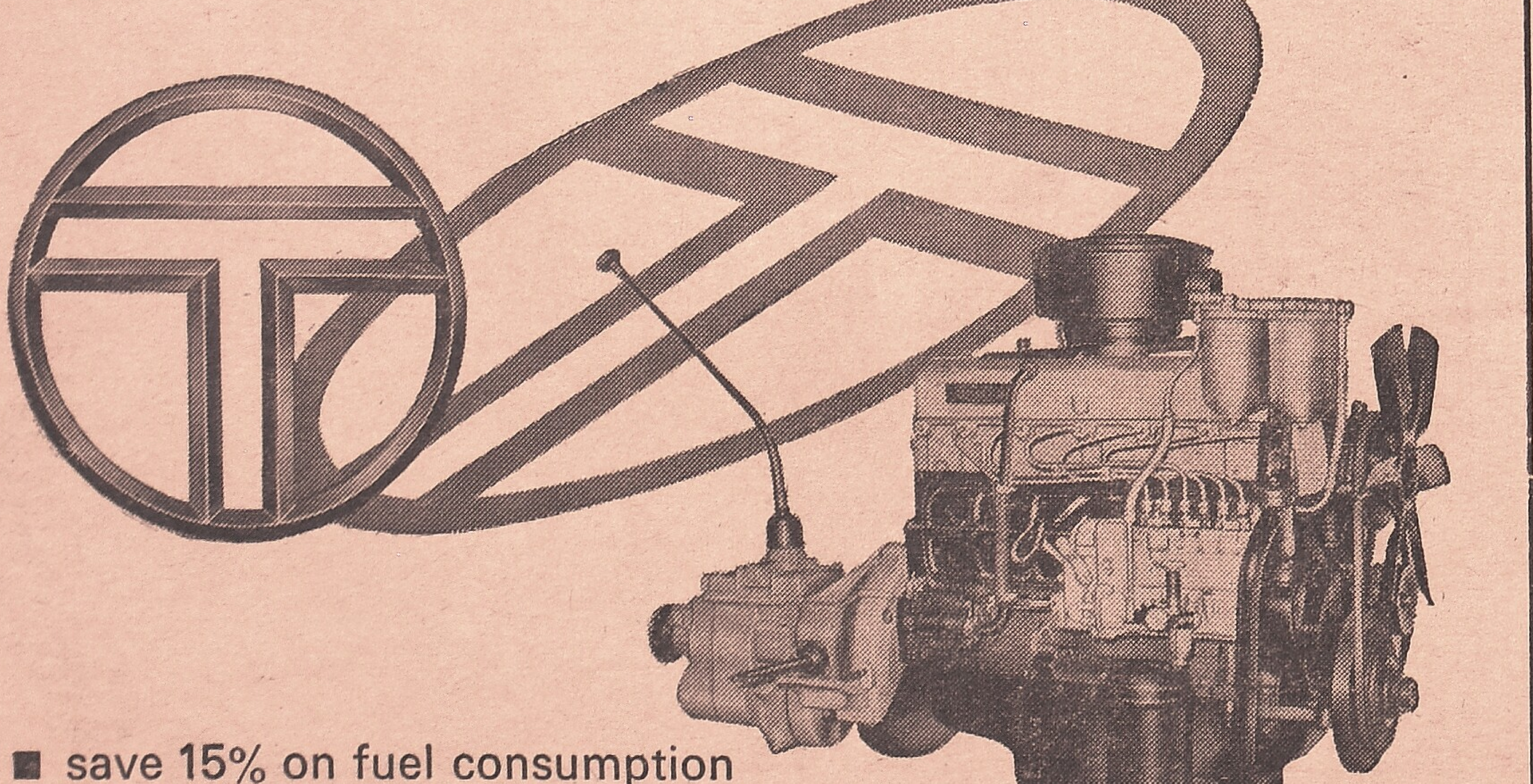

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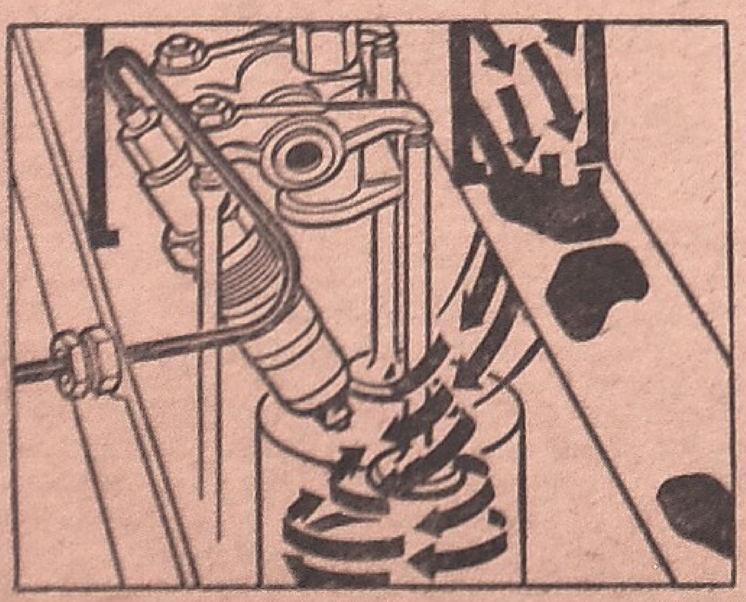

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"The Rupee won't be revalued"

But can it be?

The rupee will not be revalued because of the dollar crisis, declared MR. CHAVAN in Patna on August 19.

Three days later, in a letter to **Mr. Pierre Paul Schweitzer**, Managing Director of the **International Monetary Fund**, the Finance Minister criticised the United States' seeking a realignment of other currencies.

His statement in Patna and his criticism of the U.S. action give an impression that, if it wished, our Government could revalue the rupee upwards and that it was actually being pressurised by the United States into doing so.

Although this statement comes from no other than the country's Finance Minister, it is mere nonsense.

Can Mr. Chavan even imagine for a moment that the rupee can be revalued upwards to the dollar? True, the dollar crisis has reduced the rupee's black market rate by about a rupee to Rs. 11.70. But this still leaves the rupee at a sizeable discount in comparison with the official exchange rate of Rs. 7.50 to one U.S. dollar. One has not heard of a

Big Business

By "Tycoon"

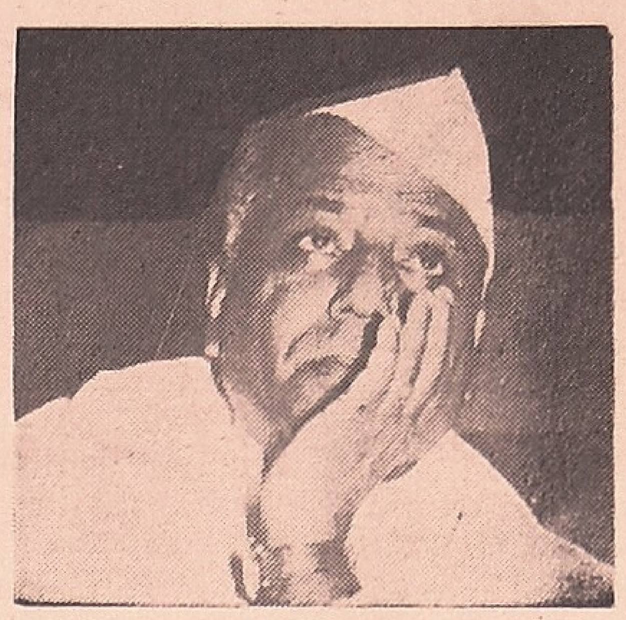
country, with its currency at so big a discount, talking of revaluation.

As for the U.S. pressure for a realignment of other currencies, there is nothing on record to show that America counts India as among the countries whose currencies could be revalued.

"Economy Unaffected"

Earlier, certain official sources in New Delhi, while commenting to the press on the steps **President Nixon** announced to save the dollar, had stated that the dollar crisis would not affect our economy. Moreover, they expected the rupee to gain to the extent the dollar suffered in its exchange value **for the** other hard currencies.

Mr. Chavan also said that the dollar crisis would not hit India's economy. But he admitted him optimism stemmed from the U.S. President's



Y. B. Chavan
Mere nonsense

assurance that the 10 per cent surcharge on imports, which he had introduced, would not touch exports from developing countries. Actually, imports from developing countries into the United States fall under the non-duty list. So these are automatically free from any surcharge.

Curious report

In addition to these Government reactions to the current dollar developments, there has appeared a curious report (TIMES OF INDIA' August 24) from official sources saying that New Delhi's decision to maintain the dollar-rupee parity will boost the value of our exports. The boost is admitted to be artificial and is explained by possible fluctuations in the dollar's rate to the sterling.

"For instance", explains the report, "if the London rate increases to 2.50 dollars per pound, this will be reflected in a new exchange rate of Rs. 18.75 per pound against the value of Rs. 18 per pound in force till now."

But why take credit for this artificial increase, when in real terms neither in quantity nor in value, our exports will go up?

And what about the loss in our exports to those countries whose currencies have either been already floating or might be floated or revalued in the near future? West Germany, Holland and Canada fall under the first category and the EEC countries and Britain under the latter, while there is a strong case for a revaluation of the yen and for a further increase in the D-Mark's exchange rate. **Where will India's exports to these countries stand, should they decide to realign or revalue their currencies?** It may be noted here that our Government has decided to let the rupee's rate to the sterling fluctuate to the extent the dollar's rate to the pound has been allowed to float.

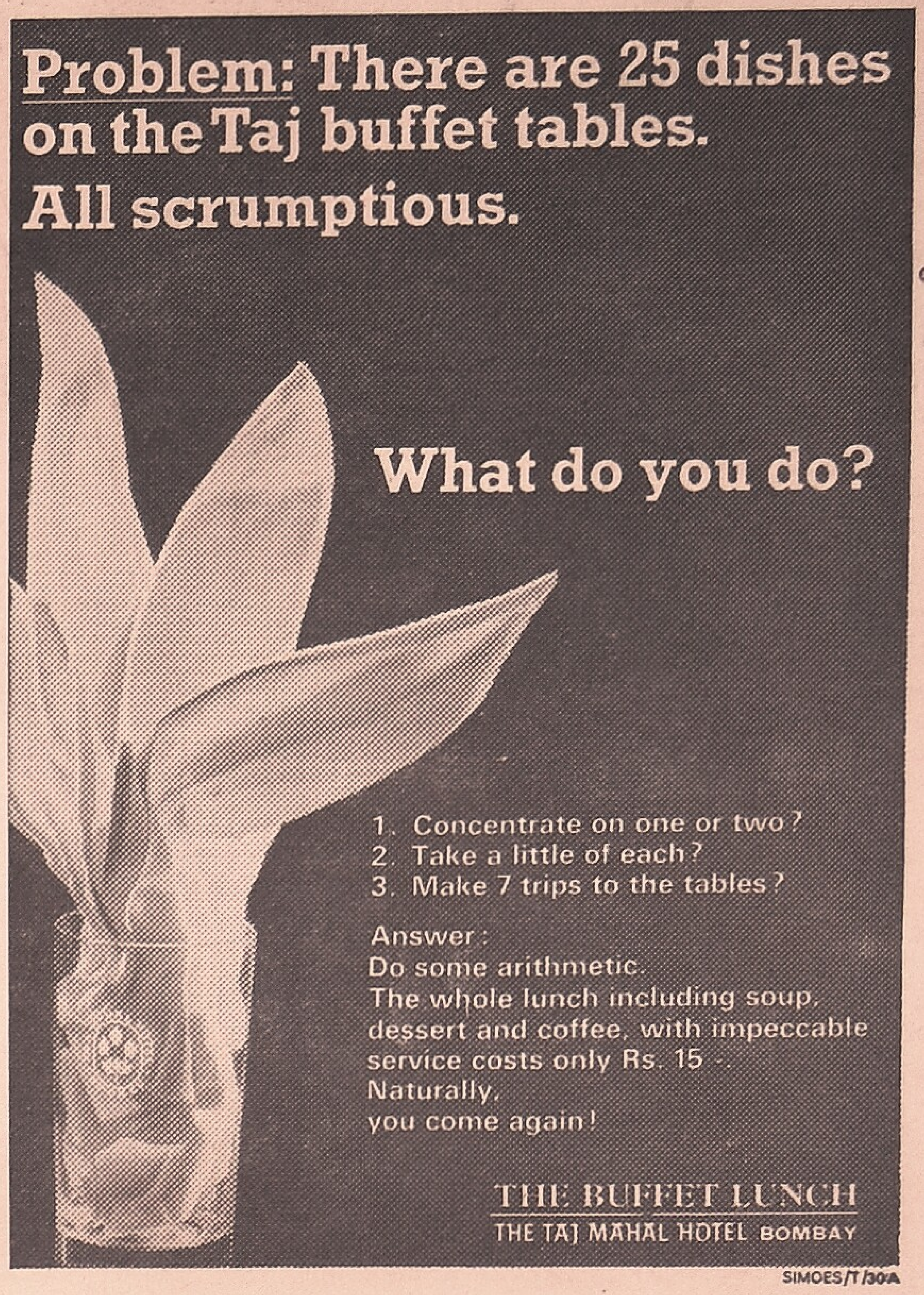
India's official reactions to the dollar crisis seem simply puerile. Other nations, in contrast, are deeply disturbed over it and countries like Israel and Indonesia have swiftly resorted to a straight devaluation of their currencies.

Our Government's cockiness only just conceals its anxiety that the dollar crisis might lead to a change in the world currencies' parity to gold. This was clearly underlined at the Cabinet meeting on August 21 when it was decided to maintain the rupee's gold parity at 0.118489 grams to fine gold and to request the I.M.F. that it should strive to see that other currencies' gold parity was left unaltered.

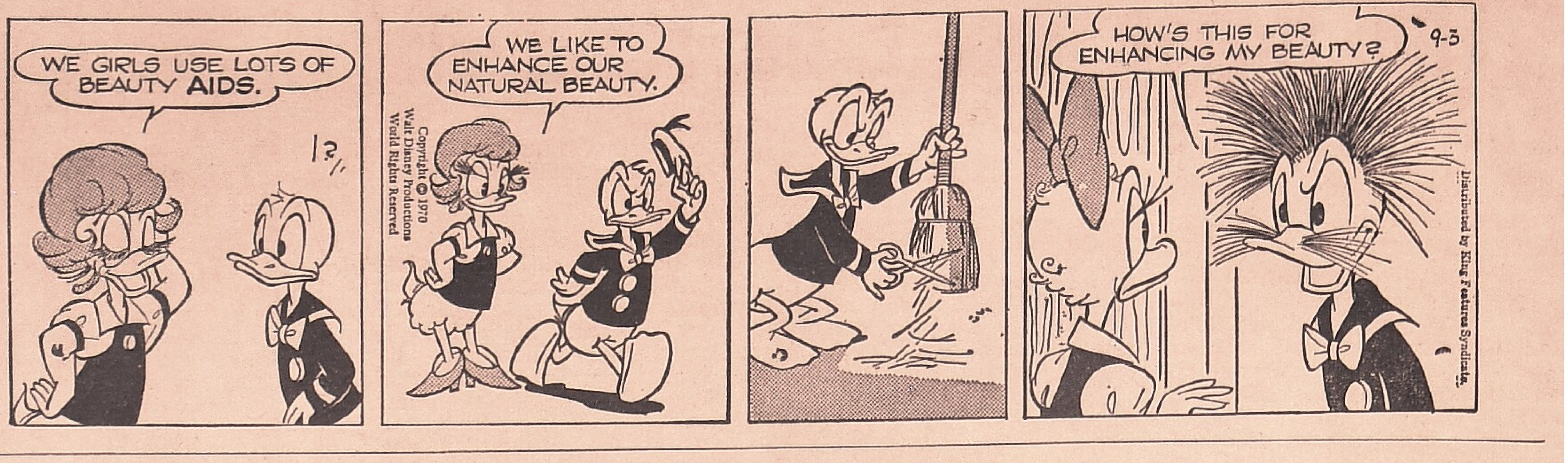
New Variety of Cotton-Seed

NEW DELHI: A new cotton-seed, called "Hybrid-4", has been grown in Gujarat by cross-breeding the Indian seed with that of an Egyptian variety.

This seed promises a revolution in cotton cultivation in India.



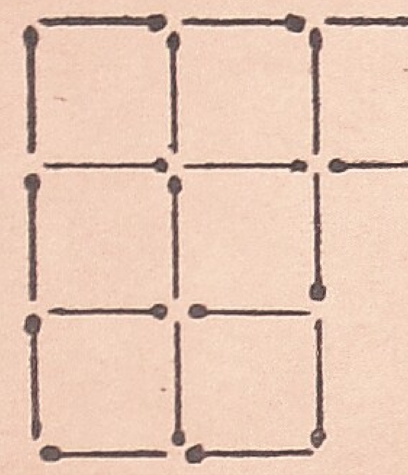
Dear Children



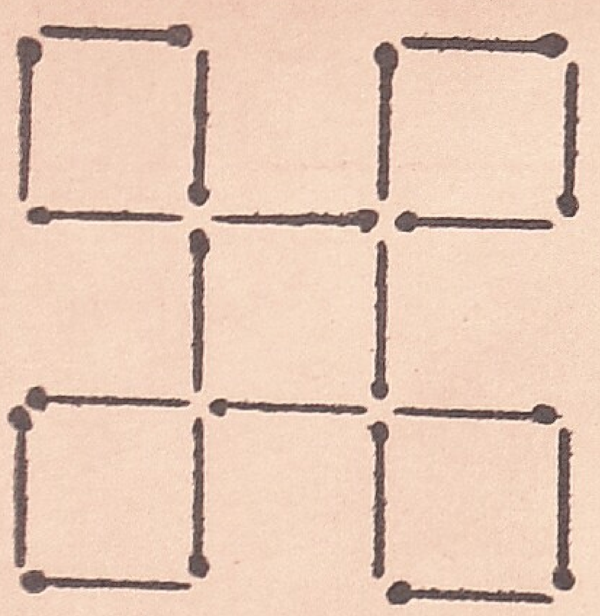
Matchstick Puzzle

This is a rather different kind of problem, one which should be tackled the other way around! Below are two 'answers' for which you are required to write a puzzle, based on the two figures (a) and (b). Both the figures should be related to one another in one puzzle. You are to imagine that each headed line is a matchstick.

Answers:



(a)



(b)

The Puzzle

Use 20 sticks and form 9 squares. Next, remove 3 sticks and place them elsewhere so that the number of squares is now only 5. The puzzle could be worded any way you like.

Your Bookshelf

DEAR BERTRAND RUSSELL Edited by **Barny Feinsberg** and **Ronald Kasrils** (George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 35 sh.).

This book is unique in that it is made up of letters to BERTRAND RUSSELL from laymen and relatively unknown people and his concise and often witty replies to them. Most of the letters refer to the ideas Russell has expressed in his many books or the views he has stoutly held throughout his life.

This book exposes Russell's character much better than even his own Autobiography. His replies cover the whole gamut of his controversial but logical beliefs, from Mathematics and Philosophy to Marriage, Morals and Religion. The compilers of this book have been fair enough to include letters to Russell expressing support and praise for his beliefs as well as those which were critical and downright vindictive.

In his Preface, Russell bemoans the loss of the art of letter-writing in the twentieth century. He attributes the deplorable standard of letter-writing in present times to the telephone, telegraph, easy travel and the bureaucracies which have produced "a new form of letter which is archaic, deliberately uninformative and completely lacking in subtlety".

One of the revelations in this book is the remarkable affinity which Russell achieved with many young people, in his old age. Two of Russell's most enduring characteristics, his passion for truth and his concern for the survival of mankind, are repeatedly seen to surface from his replies.

One of Russell's replies beautifully illustrates his incisive wit. To a letter expressing grateful thanks to both God and Russell for his Autobiography, Russell replies, **"I am pleased you liked my autobiography, but troubled that you thanked God for it, because that suggests He has infringed my copyright."**

Bertrand Russell's role in the philosophical thought of our century is very well expressed in another letter in which he writes, "I have attempted in my philosophical work to find out that which could be accepted as true and, in so doing, have managed to discover a great deal which had passed for knowledge, to be untrue. I had hoped it might be possible to have an influence on public affairs in such a manner as to avoid stupidity and malice which characterizes so much of human life. In this I have conspicuously failed."

All the correspondence in this book has been classified into groups according to the particular issues they concern. The last section entitled 'Anekdota', is delightfully different in that it includes inconsequential letters querying Russell about his likes, dislikes and personal habits. But unvaryingly, all his replies are sympathetic and helpful, warm and sensitive.

As the blurb on the jacket so rightly says, 'This selection of his correspondence reveals that side of the man which is turned away from the public stage and directed at each individual on a personal level. It opens a rare window on Russell, not the famous man, but the human being.'

S. Anand
A Young Critic

Fun with Cards

The Jacks

Arrange the 4 Jacks, face upwards, so that only one pip of each suit is visible. (The 'pip' is the figure on the left).

9 Card Magic Square

Take three cards of Spades, one of them must be the Ace, and the same three cards of Hearts and Diamonds—9 cards in all. Arrange these in 3 rows and columns so that the total of pips in any row, or any column or in any long diagonal is 9.

Answers:

1. Place two Jacks side by side and insert the third Jack side-wise between the two so that half of it is exposed and the other half is under another card. Likewise insert the other Jack from the opposite side.
2. The arrangement shows that no row nor any column has two cards of the same rank or two cards of the same suit.

A-H 3-S 5-D 7-C
7-S 5-H 3-C A-D
3-D A-C 7-H 5-S
5-C 7-D AS 3-H

A letter to God

CURRENT's Birthday

Children solving CURRENT puzzles

Dear God

This month is my birthday. Please give me a crisp, bright year. I don't want to get wet and soggy as children don't like damp news. Or a wet blanket. Besides, they are getting a little too smart for me, solving all my puzzles. That's why I need a bright year. So that I can look on the bright side of things. And think up bright ideas. Now isn't that bright!!!

CURRENTLY Yours.

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WOMEN

Girls' School in the Pink City

"When it began, the purdah went out"

By Ratan Karaka

The still glamorous RAJMATA OF JAIPUR, 52, recently had great success with her school for young girls. This is the first Public School for girls in India. It is called the MAHARANI GAYATRI DEVI GIRLS' PUBLIC SCHOOL, is situated in Jaipur, the pink city of Rajasthan.

"The Educational Ministry has said that 25 per cent of the new admissions from next year are reserved for merit scholars. The scholarships will be paid by the Central Government and the State Government."

Gayatri Devi
Rajmata of Jaipur

This very modern public school is now 28 years old. In a chat I had with the Rajmata in the pink and brown Spanish Suite at the Taj Mahal Hotel, she told **CURRENT** about this school where the pupils were at first in purdah and then gradually discarded it. There are now 692 girls studying there and the girls leave after finishing the I.S.C. examinations.

"From every strata"

The smartly-dressed girls in their white and blue uniforms with maroon sashes and dupattas are bright and alert. The school is made up of girls from every strata of society ... "from the daughter of a man who earns as little as Rs. 150 to the daughters of the very affluent."

The Rajmata said: "My girls' school is growing larger and larger and we are at our wits end trying to cope with the necessary expansion.

"For instance—Mathematics. As you probably know, there is a new method of teaching it which needs a separate classroom, more like a laboratory. Fortunately the Union Education Ministry's merit scholarships begin from next year.

"I was very pleased about it as it goes to show that Government has at last recognised the services of Public Schools in the field of education. The girls are day scholars and boarders. But at the same time, we will have to find accommodation for these new girls.

"We started our school when I was a bride. it was amalgamated with the old girls' school and given a completely new look. Not only was the new building built, but the education was also improved. **The girls are capable, have ideas and go in for various jobs including the diplomatic services. They are still shy, but that is their temperament and they are extremely keen to learn and move with the times."**

"How and why did you start this school?"

"When I was 21, my husband (the late Maharaja of Jaipur) said he would like to get the women of Jaipur out of purdah. He was very keen and I began to take an interest too. At that time the Jaipur girls pulled forward the tops of their head pieces to cover their faces. They never went out and just a few were educated. The lack of a modern girls' school and their orthodox background kept them very isolated.

"At that time **Sir Mirza Ismail**, the then Dewan of Jaipur helped me, and I was able to start this school. The girls had to give up the purdah, dress in churidars and kamizes, and play games.

Today, attention is paid to books as well as sport. The girls play tennis and other games excellently. This is due to **Ayesha** of Jaipur, who as princess of Cooch-Behar never believed in staying indoors.

"Every morning I went riding, then played golf and tennis and was also interested in polo. It was different from the life of our elders. I remember as a child being thoroughly tired of going into the great houses of jewellery in Europe - **Cartier**, **Van Cleef** and **Arpels**, **Boucheron**, with my mother and grandmother. As a young girl I was not fond of jewellery and I preferred to be on the tennis courts, in the playing fields and in the forests, riding. **Therefore my girls must play games too. I believe in beautiful bodies and beautiful minds. My girls are so independent, so well-spoken, so well-informed." She was very proud of them. "To our school come girls from all over Asia. We have two Ethiopian girls in our school also."**

She hopes to get the girls interested in Jaipur pottery, **Tarkashi** work (brass in-laid in wood) and she hopes to start a school for arts and crafts, the first of its kind in Rajasthan. "At present we are bogged down with orders but we will soon start making things to suit contemporary tastes." In every way, this beautiful woman is trying to make the lives of the young women interesting.

She's now re-doing and re-arranging Jaipur's beautiful **City Palace Museum**, so that the girls can study the lovely old-world things of another era.

Sale of Handicrafts

THE CENTRAL RAILWAY WOMEN'S SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE have organised a sale of handicrafts in aid of its welfare activities.

Begum Ali Yavar Jung will inaugurate the sale at 4 p.m. on September 5, 1971 at the Coomaraswamy Hall, Prince of Wales Museum. This will be open daily to the public from 5th to 9th September.

The sale will include a fabulous range of sarees, pottery, colourful glassware, exquisite hand embroidered linen, and lots of other beautiful things.

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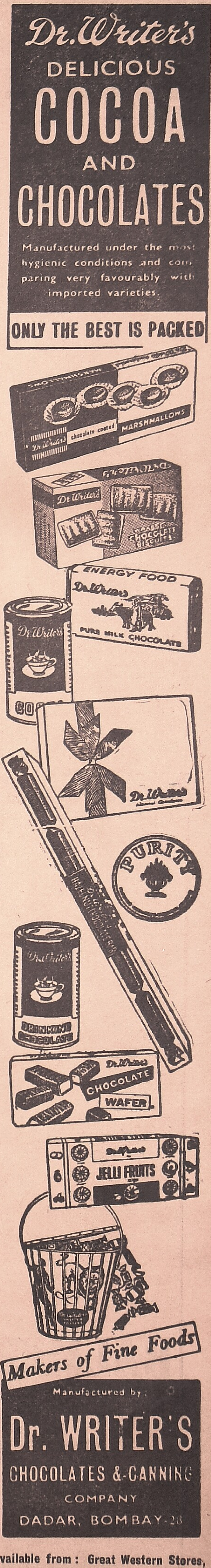

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Hamdard

P. R.

Best Advertising Student

The annual award of a gold medal to the best student in advertising in the Rajendra Prasad College of Mass Communication in Bangalore was announced by **Mr. Harish C. Jain of Jaisons.**

16-lakh bottling plant

In the time the waiter is gone for your bottle of Orange, Duke's can fill and cap 400 bottles of aerated water, with the help of its bottling plant imported from the United States.

Duke & Sons thus have the single largest bottling plant in the country today. The Rs. 16-lakh plant has a capacity of 400 bottles per minute and is fully automated. The bottles pass through a rinser and a washer and are then pasteurised for 20 minutes. They are then filled. The bottles are capped and passed before a bright screen to check for impurities.

The machine demands constant vigilance. A jammed cap or bottle can suspend production.

Even with these precautions, managers need to have a sense of humour to deal with some characters who drop a rusty nail into a bottle, reseal it, and try to blackmail the manufacturers, said Mr. F. P. Pandole, the Managing Director.

Publicity Discussions with ECAFE Officials

MR. SANAT LAHIRI, Publicity Manager of Dunlop India Limited, recently made a trip to Bangkok on an invitation from the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and Far East (ECAFE).

During his one-week stay at the ECAFE headquarters, Mr. Lahiri held discussions with senior officials of the ECAFE.

This is the first time that an Indian public relations expert had been invited by the U.N. Agency to advise them on their publications programme.

In India

Mr. Lawrence J. Lombardo, Area Manager for Asia and the South Pacific, Firestone International Company was in Bombay last week to have discussions with Firestone-India Executives.

Lombardo

Joining Firestone in 1952, Mr. Lombardo has served in many positions in different parts of the world.

Help for unemployed Engineers

Another **Fedders Lloyd** 'Customer Service Centre' was opened on August 25 in Borivili, Bombay. This is the second in the "Self Employment Scheme" for unemployed engineers by Fedders Lloyd.

Mr. Y. P. Punj, Vice-Chairman of the Punj Group of Enterprises, inaugurated the Centre.

Tension increasing on Kashmir cease-fire line

By Our Correspondent

SRINAGAR: The Indo-Soviet peace and friendship treaty does not seem to have reduced the chances of an Indo-Pakistan war, if reports emanating from knowledgeable sources are to be relied upon.

The latest report circulating here says that Pakistan might resort to mischief in the nature of violation of the cease-fire line any time during the first fortnight of September. This report is confirmed by people who have just come from Pakistan.

Pakistan, it appears has been keen on collecting all possible information on defence preparedness on this side. The first open attempt was made last month when her two fighter planes flew at a height of only 500 ft. over the Srinagar airport and other areas without being intercepted.

It would also appear that Pakistan wants to prepare the "necessary ground" in the valley before infiltrating. This has been indicated by the "infiltration" of five persons from occupied Kashmir in two separate groups of three and two persons on July 26 and August 1 respectively. They carried with them cameras to collect intelligence and provocative literature to incite the local population.

Meanwhile, the simultaneous appearance of posters, issued by a new Pakistan sponsored organisation "Tehriq-ul-Kashmir" and the local Naxalites, calling for the declaration that East Bengal and Kashmir are part of Pakistan and urging the youth to rise in violent revolt respectively, has indicated once again the link-up between the two elements. The posters appeared in different parts of the valley and, in both cases, were hand-written. Observers explain this link-up by referring to the Sino-Pak axis on all issues connected with Indo-Pak relations.

There is reason to believe that the biggest suspects are those connected with the outlawed Plebiscite Front. This has been indicated by the re-arrest of all erstwhile PF leaders who had been recently released, on August 8, i.e. on the eve of the eighteenth anniversary of **Sheikh Abdullah's** dismissal as State Premier and his detention. The leaders of the outlawed Front had planned to organise meetings and processions on August 9.

PEOPLE

AWARDED: To Bombay Cardiologist **Dr. Rustom Vakil,** the Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar National Award for Medical Sciences, by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The eminent Bombay specialist is a Padma Bhushan holder, a recipient of the Albert Lasker International Award for Medical Research and the Dr. B. C. Roy National Award for promoting Cardiology in India.

PIONEERING CHIEF: Soil Dynamics expert, **Dr. Shamsher Prakash.** An outstanding Foundation Engineer, he has been elected President of the Indian Geotechnical Society. Dr. Prakash is in charge of the Soil Mechanics Division of Roorkee University. **A consultant on various earth dam projects, Dr. Prakash's outstanding contribution is a rational design of pile foundation against earthquakes.**

DIED: The **Rajmata of Rajkot, Krishnakumariba,** 72, in the city, on August 23. Widow of the Rajkot ruler, **Lakhajiraj,** she had been ill for three months.

DIED: Hansa Wadkar, 47, gifted Marathi actress, of cancer in Bombay on August 23. Born to a family of artistes and singers, Hansa began acting at 10, appeared in Hindi as well as Marathi films. In 1966, she wrote her autobiography, a work which scandalised the community, but later fetched the State Government Award for 1969, **for its outstanding honesty and exposure of the celluloid world.**

ABROAD

BORN: To **Bernadette Devlin,** 23, youngest member of the British Parliament and fiery civil rights champion from Northern Ireland, a daughter on August 23. Miss Devlin, who'd announced her pregnancy only eight weeks earlier, refused to give the identity of the father. **"My morals are my private affair",** she says. Her colleagues agree.

BURIED ALIVE: Father Tierney, 44, Franciscan priest of St. Patrick's, London. He's hoping to beat the world record of being buried alive—61 days. **He plans to survive in a 9 foot grave.** Funds will go to help the poor of his parish, also for a priest's training college in Canterbury.

RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT: Ace American jazz trumpeter **Dizzy Gillespie.** He decided to stand for the U.S. Presidency after playing at the White House and chatting with **President Nixon** some months ago. **Dizzy means business, says:** "I want to work for the people, to guarantee peace and tranquillity".

ROBBED AGAIN: The **Prince of Baroda,** at his lodgings in Saint-Tropez, France. The first robbery took place at his London flat. Thieves made away with 10,000 francs (Rs. 15,000), and 40,000 francs (Rs. 60,000) worth of jewellery. **Oddly, they passed up a whole collection of valuable rings as the most impressive stone of the lot was a glass imitation.**

PERSONAL

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"Active anti-religious propaganda during the month of Ramadan"

(*Continued from page 8*)

greatest Soviet scholar on Islam, eloquently expressed the views of the overwhelming atheist majority of the Soviet Union." (p. 36).

If Klimovich, described as "the greatest Soviet scholar on Islam", said this, why try to disown publication of "The Soviet Union and Islam"?

Another instance is given in the booklet which can easily be verified. It relates to the Soviet attempt, claimed in the booklet to be official, to "mobilise all the primary party organisations, all the Communists, in active anti-religious propaganda during the period of the prolonged Moslem fast, the month of Ramadan." (p. 44 & 45).

Pretty tea rooms

What happened, according to the Novosti publication? This is what the book says:

"Long before the fast, pretty tea rooms were set up with the participation of unions of poor peasants. During the month of Ramadan, people would go to the tea rooms, various types of meetings would be held, and vital political and economic questions and local needs would be discussed. Experienced agitators spoke at those meetings, relying on interesting materials and their ability to catch the interest of the audience.

"In 1925-1930, at congresses and plenary sessions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, for example, decisions on questions of the fight against religion were adopted. Special conferences were convoked, organisations of the Union of the Godless were created, the broad publication of atheistic literature was begun, and mass meetings and debates were held, as were other measures aimed at unmasking the reactionary activity of the Moslem clergy **and aimed at the complete liberation of the working Moslems from the influence of religion.**

"Of great importance for the development of the atheistic movement in the national republics was the special resolution **'Anti-religious Propaganda Among the Nationalities of the USSR'**, adopted at a conference at the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan in April 1926.

"Serious attention was directed at the training and proficiency up-grading of atheistic personnel. Anti-religious universities, schools and departments were opened up at institutions of higher learning, and atheistic seminars, courses and clubs were formed." (p. 45 & 46)

If this was done in the Soviet Union in April 1923, the Soviet attempt to discredit religion and to break the faith of those who have it is part of official Communist policy in the USSR.

Does any Soviet leader deny this?

Read this:

"There have been instances when individual Communists have a conciliatory attitude towards the religious ideology, toward the anti-humanitarian acts of the clergy, and sometimes even observe religious rites themselves.

"Instances such as these are intolerable. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan has severely censured them and suggested to party organisations that they decisively demand of all Communists the unquestioning observance of the party rules." (p. 47)

There is the discipline of the party which overrides the dictates of all religions.

What is the position of Islam in the Soviet Union? Here is the answer from the **Novosti** 'holy' book:

"Before World War I there were over 35,000 mosques in the Soviet Union. At the present time there are barely several tens of mosques and most of these are used for ceremonial purposes. On the other hand, there are thousands of universities and schools providing anti-religious training and millions of atheistic seminars, oral journals, and question and answer evenings. Lectures and discussions on anti-religious topics are held every day." (p. 56 & 57).

But the author is not satisfied with these results. **He says:** "In spite of the positive effect of these measures being taken in all Moslem areas of the Soviet Union, the level and scope of these activities still do not meet the requirements of the programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union nor of the 23rd Party Congress." (p. 57).

The people of India—Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Parsis—believe in God and believe in religion. No treaty signed by our government with the Soviet Union can change that faith. But even those of us who do not belong to the Muslim religion must ask ourselves what the Muslims of India must feel when they read this shocking and disgraceful attack on their religion. Muslims are the largest minority in India. There are 60 crores of Muslims in India. They are part of our people, part of our land, part of our nation.

It was the Muslims of India who gave **Mrs. Gandhi** and her party their solid vote at the last mid-term poll, which helped put the present government into power. These Muslims did so because they said they felt that their future would be safeguarded by Mrs. Gandhi and her government. **How will they feel today when this government, which is in jubilation over the recently signed Indo-Soviet Treaty, allows our "great allies" to put out an official publication, for propaganda purposes, attacking a religion in this country which we Indians will always respect, whether we belong to it or not?**

President Sadat, an Arab and a Muslim, has realised that the Soviet hand of friendship, which was so enthusiastically shaken by them at one time, also had some subversive tendencies. Indian admirers of the Soviet Union were gloriously praising the UAR Government for the close ties which it had established with the Soviet Union.

But in recent weeks we have seen how President Sadat has pushed the Soviets out of Egypt. Not just one or two stray incidents, but according to press reports, 3,000 Soviets were pushed out! There was evidence of Soviet "diplomats" indulging in attempted sabotage of the sovereignty of that great Arab country.

In fact, President Sadat has so firmly stood on the independence and sovereign rights of his country, irrespective of any treaties he may have signed, that Indian journalists inclined to be pro-Communist, are filing reports about the Arabs and about Egypt, not from Cairo as before, but from the safe distance of Beirut! This is very noticeable to us, who have long stood away from this 'bhai-bhai-ism" which was indulged in a few years ago.

Similarly, **President Nimeiri** of Sudan, after the experience he has had, has also pushed the Soviet saboteurs out of his country, realising that the Soviet hand of friendship ends up in sabotage of his country's sovereignty.

Little Ceylon has also woken

(*Continued on page 28*)

Quran Day

Anjuman-E-Khuddamul Quran have arranged a public meeting on 18th September 1971 at 9 p.m. at Kesar Baugh, Dongri, Bombay to celebrate the 'Quran Day'. Prominent scholars have been invited to participate in the function and also to present their papers on their own chosen aspects of the message of the Holy Quran and renowned poets will give recitals of their poems on the subject.

Received With Grateful Thanks Rs. 26,594

With this issue of CURRENT, 22 years of publication are completed. If you will see our mast-head on the front page, we begin today Volume XXIII, No. 1, which means the first issue of our 23rd year.

A reader from Bulsar sent us **Rs. 5** as a donation in addition to two subscription renewals which he sent us. **A lady reader from Bombay** sent us **Rs. 21.** Next came a donation in cash of **Rs. 22** from **"a small Jackpot Winner** for your 22 years of publication".

This brought our total, as at Friday, August 27, to **Rs. 26,594,** GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

With a broad grin on his face, our Accountant walked in with a rough copy of his trial balance, which showed a small profit this year in comparison with the shattering loss we suffered last year. We thought we should share this information with the donors who so kindly sustained us through our difficult days. Our profit has by no means wiped out our loss, but at least it shows a turn in the tide. Let's be grateful for that.

D.F.K.

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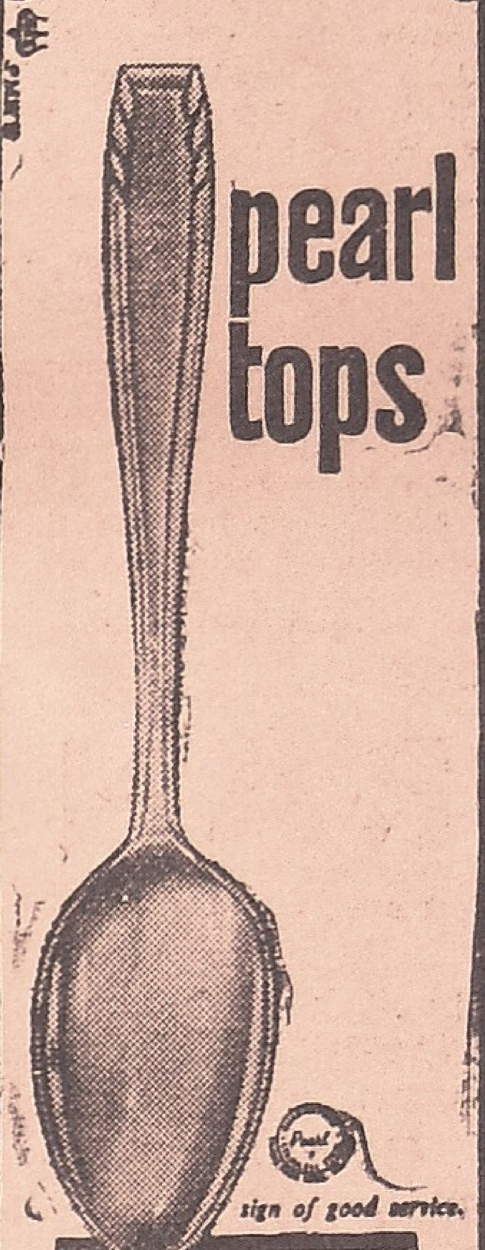

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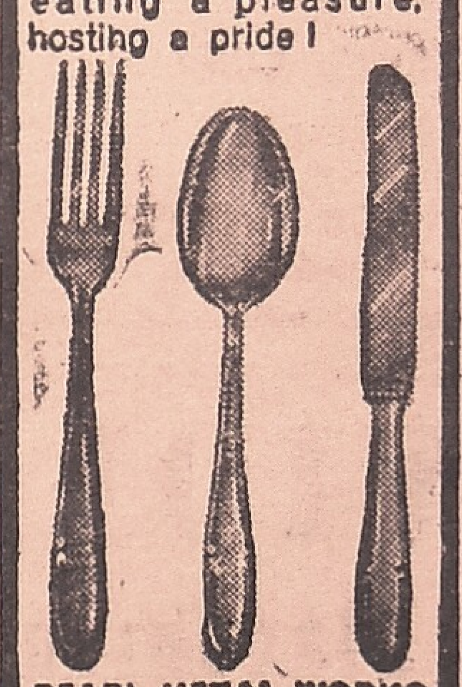

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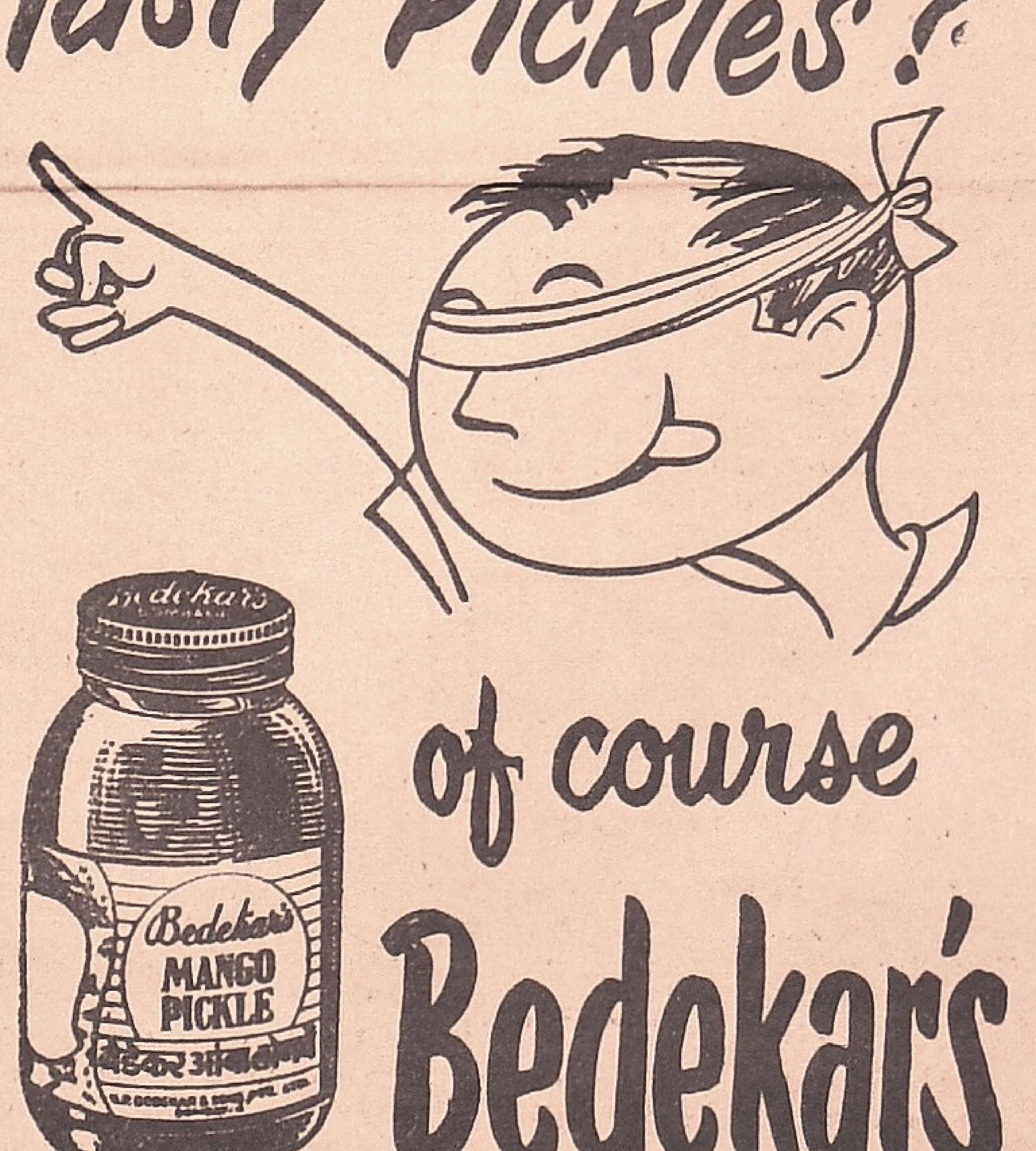
Tasty Pickles?



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SPORT

India Now A World Power In Cricket

By Maidan-me-chalo

FANTASTIC! Magnificent! Marvellous! Remarkable! All the superlatives one can think of are, however, hopelessly inadequate to describe India's Test triumph over England at the Oval. It is an achievement too stunning for words.

5,000 people packed the Oval to see India win. "India's victory, received amid scenes of great enthusiasm stands as one of the finest achieved by a visiting side to this country. It is something they have been striving for since they first played Test cricket 39 years ago, and it came from an apparently hopeless position.

"England fought as they have been guaranteed to fight. Never was a match more reluctantly conceded and this was all to England's credit. It was a desperately slow pitch. Hardly a ball turned, and Snow might as well have bowled a poached egg as a bouncer," says **The Times**, London (Aug. 25).

The euphoria that is now inevitable will be in striking contrast to the pessimism at the start of the tour when even the most ardent Indian supporter hardly gave **Wadekar** and his men much of a chance against the might of **Illingworth** and company.

Even the success over the West Indies earlier this year was not considered as a true index of the Indians' potential.

England will be a different proposition altogether, said the prophets of doom. "Beware of Snow". "It will rain". "The cold will be unbearable". Such, indeed, were the words of "encouragement".

Chandrasekhar
Devastating

Undaunted by the heavy odds against them, Wadekar and his men have achieved a feat which no Indian team could perform in any of the earlier tours.

A victory over England in England is something every nation aspires for and cherishes most. The glory is now all the greater for India, since England had been hailed as the unofficial world champion following its recent triumphs over the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand and Pakistan.

In fact, Illingworth had the distinction of leading England against all these countries without ever losing a Test.

Like a true Yorkshireman, "Illy" always plays it hard and is chary in handing out praise to his opponents. He himself rescued England more than once and it was his century that placed his side on top in the second Test.

India, however, put up a worthy fight and fully deserve their success. One began to despair as they narrowly failed to clinch the first Test at Lord's and then came perilously close to defeat before being saved by rain in the second.

India were again fighting a rearguard battle at the Oval when they lost the toss and trailed by 71 runs in the first innings.

Freak leg-spinner CHANDRASEKHAR, however, dramatically changed the course of the game with six for 38 in a devastating spell of 18.1 overs. Needing 173 runs with more than a day left, India reached their target without causing any undue alarm.

It was thus spin "magic, mystical" that did the trick. And it is strange that Chandrasekhar should have proved to be the star of the trio after the manner in which he had been packed off midway through the tour of Australia some four years ago.

A polio victim, Chandra has taken all the hardships of staging a come-back in his stride and is back on his high pedestal as a match-winning bowler.

So brilliant were Chandra, **Venkat** and **Bedi** that the cream of England's batting was found wanting in every innings of the three Tests. For once, the middle and the tail failed to rescue England in the second innings of the final Test and that was the end.

Our spinners were successful because they were backed by agile catching and some consistent batting. SARDESAI and GAVASKAR failed to attain the heights they scaled in the West Indies but a number of others rose to the situation. Wadekar himself regained his form and was superb with the bat. That he was able to match wits with the redoubtable Illingworth speaks volumes for his leadership.

With the twin triumphs over the West Indies and England, India is the first Asian nation to emerge as a world power in cricket. In the process, it has effectively disproved the theory that supremacy in the game goes with the team that has the best pair of fast bowlers.

To quote The Times, London again: "Ajit Wadekar has made this Indian side into a match for anyone. Within six months they have beaten West Indies and England away from home— and climbed the highest peaks in the cricketing world."

"Fentones" win Beat Contest

They got them rolling, they got them wild with their groovy music. The 8 beat groups of shaggy-haired, swinging colourful lads were beating it up for the finals of the Fourth Simla Beat Contest. It was the morning of August 22 and the pad was the Shanmukhananda Hall, chockful with the young people.

The "Fentones" from Shillong beat them all—they won the First Prize of Rs. 2,000. They also won Rs. 500 for the Best Original Composition. The runners-up were **"Velvette Fogg"** from Bombay and the very hip **"Hipnotic Eye"** from Delhi. They got Rs. 500 each.

Then there were individual prizes of Rs. 100 each. Drummer boy **Vispy** of **"Black Beats"** from Ahmedabad won the Best Drummer prize. **David Power** and **Ray Rebeiro**, both from the **"Eruptions"**, Cuttack were judged the Best Lead Guitarist and the Best Lead Singer respectively.

This festival of music was organised by INDIA TOBACCO CO. LTD., makers of Simla cigarettes for the fourth year in succession. Rs. 35,000 collected from this show were handed over to the National Association for the Blind.

For the disappointed fans the finalists made the scene again on August 25. This time it was in aid of Chief Minister's Relief Fund and the money collected was Rs. 12,300.

Shock Successes

(Continued from page 27)

were no excuses. She was simply not good enough. This mare by **Gul Mohar-Shantiniketan** can now be followed only at your peril.

Black Bellerina, a filly by **Flower Dust-Ballerina**, has now made a total of seven attempts to earn her first bracket without success. Her latest venture was in the 1.400 metres Panchgani Plate, where because of her excellent late dash after losing much ground at the start of the **Finalist Cup**, she was installed a firm favourite. She loomed large on the scene soon on entering the straight and up to the distance post raised hopes of success. Then **Mosu Prema** flashed on the scene and went away to a one and a half lengths victory. **Black Bellerina** is a veritable teaser.

Following the sudden step up in form shown by **Freedom Lover** and **Chivalry**, both of whom are in **Hayat Mohd's** yard, came the shock success of **Dara Pandole's The Angel** which was followed up by **Lara**.

Lara ran dead last with stable jockey Smith in the saddle in the 1,400 metres Sahara Camp Plate on August 7 when Freedom Lover outclassed the field, winning by a distance from Bank On. The runner-up ran true to his form when placing second on Sunday but Lara cocked a snook at the book when scoring by four lengths from Ready-money in the 1,600 metres Swami Haridas Plate on Sunday.

This was a real eye opener. The filly, which carried the colours of Messrs. **Sorab Karaka** and **D. F. Karaka**, moved up smartly in the straight and could have won by a bigger margin had **Joseph**, who was in the saddle, wished it.

One is left with only two alternatives: either she has improved beyond recognition within the short space of 17 days, or she was not at her best, or not allowed to do her best, on the previous occasion. In any event, if an inquiry was demanded into the running of Freedom Lover, one cannot do less than repeat that demand.

The influential big jackpot syndicate which won Western India's record pot of Rs. 15,01,766 with a reported investment of Rs. 46,000 on Independence Day, won it again on August 24. They invested Rs. 22,000: the pot paid Rs. 3,152!

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Aziz Mahmoud Says "Inshallah"

Lara's win strengthens demand for enquiry into race Freedom Lover won on August 7

By M. A. H. Laxmi

THE TURF CLUB CUP ceased to be the richest race of the Poona Season with the introduction of the INDIAN ST. LEGER last year. But as this 1,400 metres terms affair has now been thrown open also to three-year-olds, it is the most sought after prize for which any runner, regardless of age or class, who is qualified to race in Poona, can compete.

However, the terms, to my mind, now favour the older runner, for in addition to the weight for age stipulation the penalties for horses under six years old are attracted by winners of Classic races at any centre in the country.

Horses six years and over attract a penalty of 3.5 kilos if they have won races of the aggregate value of Rs. 2,00,000 or over throughout their careers. Not many, other than classic winners, have done so and therefore they will carry only the stipulated weight of 55.5 kilos with mares and fillies claiming a sex allowance of 1.5 kilos.

In these circumstances, the signs and portents are favourable for BRIJENDRA and it is more than probable that the six-year-old STAR OF GWALIOR - CANARY gelding will carry the colours of the SCINDIAS OF GWALIOR to his third straight victory in Poona. He is in terrific condition and will be favoured by the terms, which will also be to the advantage of AL MARZOUK but against BULAND. Al Marzouk, however, will be unhappy over the short course, while Buland will not.

Obvious choice

Brijendra outclassed Class One opposition, when carrying 57.5 kilos to a ridiculously easy two lengths victory over **Season's Best** (57.5) in the 1,200 metres **P. Hadow Plate.** He was never off the bit in that race and though he was required to put in more effort when claiming the 1,400 metres **A. Campbell Plate** with 56 kilos on his back and **Bright Hanovar** in the opposition, he was still in hand when sparing seven lengths to **Season's Best** (44.5 carried 46). **As the first race was run in fair going and the second one in heavy going the state of the track will not affect his chances when the race comes up for decision on Sunday. He is the obvious choice.**

Of course, it is silly to take the fact that **Bright Hanovar,** who was conceding two kilos to **Brijendra,** finished last in the field of six, at its face value. The four - year - old **Prince Pradeep - Brigandine** colt, who has won the **Indian Derby** in Bombay, and, the **Indian Turf Invitation Cup in Calcutta,** has his sights trained on the 2,800 metres **Indian St. Leger,** to be run on September 26.

Thus, this race was in the nature of a warm up and that became increasingly clear as it progressed. **Chavan** (I understand that **Mr. M. D. Mehta** has written to **George McGrath** to make a flying visit and ride him in the longest Classic as he had done in the **Invitation Cup**) had him at the tail-end and tested his ability approaching the home turn. **Bright Hanovar** responded immediately but was not persevered with after he had made up ground.

He looks a picture as does the 1,000 Guineas and Oaks winner, Elegance, and the St. Leger should be an interesting experience, more of which will be discussed soon.

The Scindias of Gwalior, who missed the first three race days and got into the picture only on **Independence Day,** have met with instant success. having won three races in an equal number of race days with **Brijendra,** who has won twice, and **Shanti Doot.** The latter proved far too good for **Peacock Throne** in the time-honoured 1,800 metres **Rajaram Chhatrapati Gold Cup,** and, though the latter carried a postage stamp in the shape of 48 kilos on his back and **Shanti Doot** was saddled with 55.5 kilos, I wondered at the arrogance of those who supported the Throne as if defeat were out of the question.

While it is true that the weights favoured the son of

Racing

Pa Bear-Starry Way, I would have thought that it would be difficult for him to see out a trip of more than 1,600 metres without tiring at the close.

Again, the going was heavy which, although it would have been kinder to his legs, would have stretched the course. Finally, he looked tucked up and, in the circumstance, regardless of the weight of the money on him, **Karansingh,** I thought, erred grievously in his liberal use of the whip.

It is my belief that this run, he was beaten by five and a half lengths by the unextended SHANTI DOOT, will cause a major setback and I shall be very much surprised if PEACOCK THRONE wins at all this season. And I am sticking out my neck in the full knowledge that there are many race days to go before the curtain is rung down on October 17.

Shanti Doot, who was an excellent second to **The Angel** in his first appearance over 1,400 metres, is being spoken of in some quarters as a St. Leger upset. This, I believe, is wishful thinking by the supporters of the **Star of Gwalior-Nanda Deep** colt.

Bloodlines play a vital part in horse racing and for those who can evaluate them and are guided by them there is both good and bad news from Poona. The good news is that GRECIAN FLOWER has come to hand with two successive victories in three days and that SKYHAWK emerged from the maiden ranks as a well-bred youngster should. The bad news is that PERFUME has gone back on the promise of a bright future which she showed in Bangalore and that BLACK BELLERINA has suffered yet another defeat.

Heavily supported

A four-year-old filly by **Flower Dust-Grecian Princess, Grecian Flower** is half-sister to the great **Loyal Prince.** On the strength of that and, of course, her morning workouts, she has been heavily supported in most of her numerous outings. However, she won only one race as a three-year-old.

Her failures followed despite advantageous handicaps and most of her followers, including the diehards, had given her up. Her immediate connections were more persevering and are reported to have had a substantial bet in the 1,600 metres **Chiplun Plate** on Sunday, August 22. **Heavy rain midway in the programme rendered the going heavy but this did not prevent Grecian Flower scoring. And how she won! Karansingh took her to the front and she drew away in the run-in to have seven and a half lengths to spare from My Flicka. Faith paid off on this occasion despite the adverse efforts of the rain gods and the snide remarks of the pundits.**

As the handicaps for the following Tuesday's races had already been advertised, **Grecian Flower** had to carry only the statutory penalty of five kilos in the 1,800 metres **Yawar Cup.** The going was again heavy, but not for those who plumped solidly for her. She repeated her start to finish effort and ended up two and three-quarter lengths in front of **Gold Water.** The Handicapper will now come down heavily on her. This fact should not deter those who have followed her through thick and thin.

Skyhawk is a colt who is bred in the classic mould. By **Prince Pradeep** out of **Valkyrie,** he is half-brother to the excellently performed **Fairy Gold** (remember, she ran a shorthead behind **Rose Royal** in the Oaks and the Rose went on to win the Derby). He raced only once in Bombay, where he made no impression in a race which **Grand Rapids** used as a vehicle to get out of the maiden ranks. He had been tracking exceptionally well and he lived up to his blood and his morning work when making every post of the 1,400 metres **Shivajinagar Plate,** a winning one and having five lengths to spare from **Beau Ideal** at the wire. He is an excellent type and much more will be heard of **Miss P. P. Dalal** and **Dr. F. F. Wadia's** dark bay or brown colt.

As **Skyhawk** was burning up the track in his final workout for the races on August 24, trainer **Aziz Mahmoud** was overheard muttering to himself **"Inshallah! Derby Jeethinga, Invitation Jeethinga, sub Jeethinga."**

Perfume won twice in Bangalore. On the first occasion she gave the opposition a ten lengths start and an equal beating without being extended. In her next attempt she won again in easy fashion. In Poona she has failed twice. On the first occasion it is reported that her progress was impeded by interference along the rail soon on entering the straight. On the second there

(Continued on page 26)

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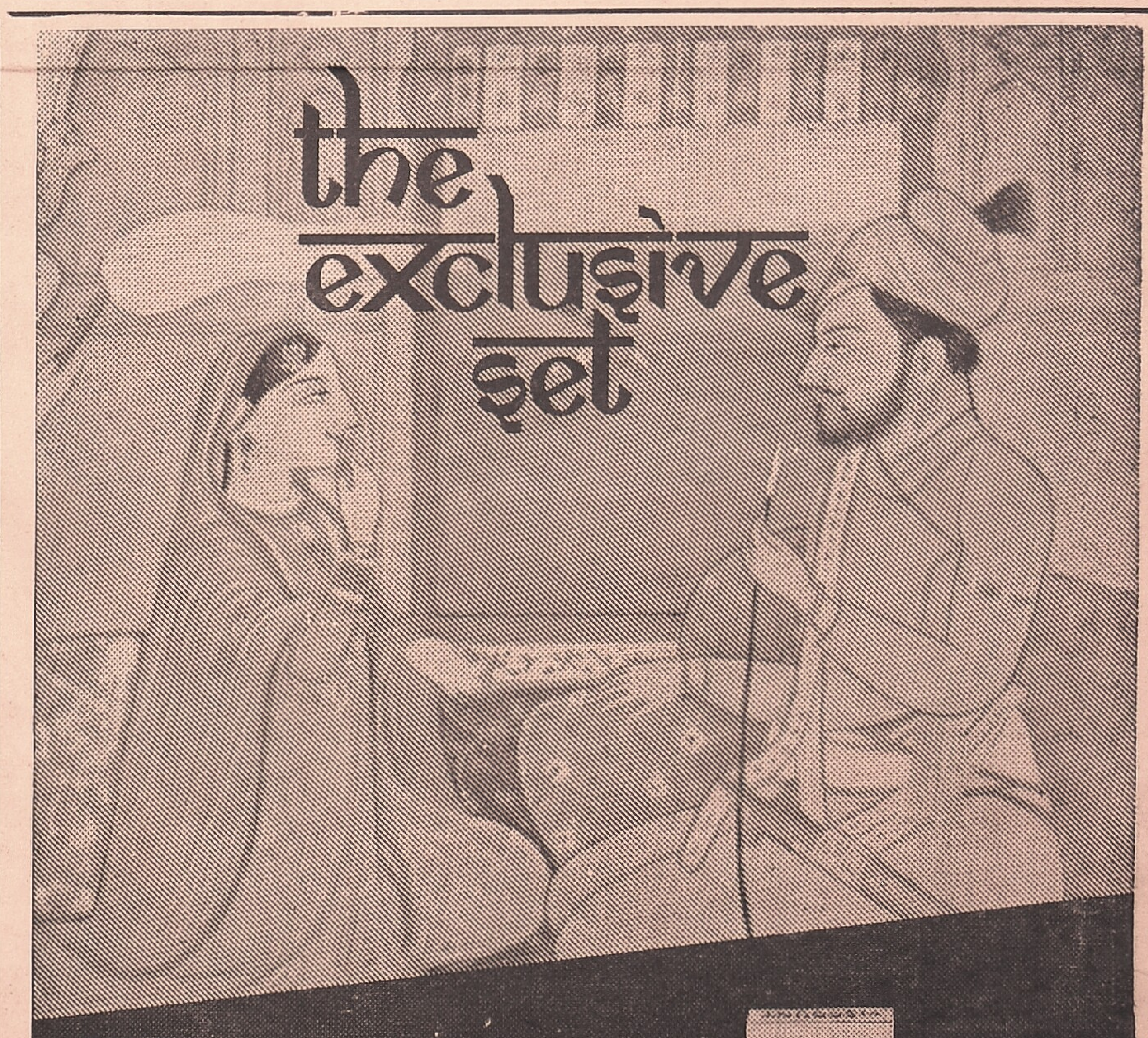

Namaz will continue
Irrespective of what the Soviets say

Soviet Hand Of Friendship Ends Up In Sabotage

(Continued from page 25)

up. Full marks to **Mrs. Bandaranaike** on her government's recent performance in exposing Soviet attempts to dislodge her government. **Mr. Pieter Keuneman** has, it is learned, rushed to Moscow for "consultations"!

The Colombo press announced on August 3 that Mr. Keuneman, Minister of Housing and Construction and General Secretary of the Ceylon Communist Party (Moscow), was departing for the Soviet Union on August 20. **Further, that his trip was sponsored by the Soviet Government and will be in his capacity as General Secretary of the Ceylon Communist Party/Moscow.**

Fashionable

The Ceylon **Daily Mirror** stated that he was going for health reasons, but the Ceylon **Daily News** stated that he will have talks with the Soviets regarding the pre-fabricated low cost, housing plant which the Soviets had promised to Ceylon in 1964. These reports in the Ceylon press make very interesting reading.

The Sinhala Edition of **"Davasa"** (Sun) of August 10, further reported that **Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe,** President of the Ceylon Communist Party/Moscow, departed for Moscow "for medical treatment." The article stated that he would be away for about a month.

Medical treatment in Moscow seems a fashionable pastime for communists in other parts of the world.

Despite the denial by unnamed "Russian officials", which figured in the **Ceylon Observer** (Monday, August 9), the same paper informs us that **Mr. M. S. M. Fassy,** General Secretary of the Ceylon Moor Youth League, commenting on the denial by the Soviet Embassy regarding the authorship and distribution of the objectionable booklet, said: **"The Soviet Ambassador (Mr. R. N. Nishanov) had ample time to inform Muslims in Ceylon that he was not responsible for the publication of this booklet. Why did he fail to do so at an early stage?"**

Mr. Fassy then goes on to make a very pertinent point: **"Apart from this, there is hardly any difference we could find with the views of Lenin and Engels and the views expressed in the book. Soviet opinion of religion, according to Lenin and Engels, is faithfully reproduced in this booklet. Some of the resolutions adopted on various occasions such as the annual meeting of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union about the Soviet policy on religion is clearly mentioned in this booklet. Therefore, although the Ambassador has denied authorship, there is a close link between the policy of the Soviet Union and the views expressed in the booklet."**

The denial, therefore, has not been convincing, and it is reasonable to state that the denial on the part of unnamed "Russian officials" is a belated effort to cover up a gross mistake, the after-effects of which the Soviet Government are yet to feel.

The envelope photographed on page 1 shows the Moscow postal franking. On the reverse there appear the two post marks of Byculla, Bombay-8 and half a post mark of Victoria Garden, Bombay, all clearly decipherable.

If the Soviets maintain that this pamphlet is a "fabrication" and the American C.I.A. is responsible for its publication and despatch, are we to believe that Security has become so lax in the Soviet Union and in its capital, Moscow, that C.I.A. agents can openly post "fabricated" pamphlets from Moscow post offices with the Soviet K.G.B. and G.R.U. being unable to detect such "forgeries" and "fabrications"?

This would be a grave reflection on the effectiveness of security measures in the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, the **Telly** (Intelligence) **Boys** of the U.S., the U.K. and the Western democracies may be interested to learn from CURRENT, as many of them frequently do, that there are three more Soviet "diplomats" pushed out of Ceylon recently. They are: (1) **Petr A. Vygonnyi,** Counsellor, (2) **Boris M. Kulikov,** Economic Counsellor, (3) **Leonid V. Petchurov,** First Secretary.

The latter is credited with having been a well-known Intelligence Officer suspected to be involved along with Comrade Chatrov in the Ceylon insurgency. He had hurriedly to leave in mid-July.

India has much to learn.

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